

'Not the Parish Magazine' but something a little different! Issue 42



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, 21st November (Christ the King)

10.00am Morning Worship at St. David's, Lordswood

Sunday, 28th November (Advent Sunday)

10.00am Morning Worship at St. William's, Walderslade

Sunday, 5th December (Advent 2)

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

Sunday, 12th December (Advent 3)

10.00am Morning Worship at St. David's, Lordswood

And also live streamed worship every Thursday
morning at 11.00am on  YouTube

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.
- those families considering baptism and for Pamela recently baptised.
- 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 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, 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: **Thursday, 2nd December.**

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



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 29th November

Session Two: Wednesday, 7th December

Session Three: Wednesday 14th December



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.



Medway Inter Faith Action (MIFA) is a colourful group of people who have got together to foster friendships across people of different faiths.



MIFA - Our aims:

- To promote, organise and support Inter-Faith and Multi-Faith activities in the Medway area.
- To promote cohesion and dialogue between the Faiths and Faith Communities in the Medway area.
- To promote mutual respect and understanding.
- To support the Inter Faith Network for the United Kingdom and maintain our membership.
- We organise events and learn about each other's beliefs and faiths.
- We celebrate our differences but focus on our common beliefs and values.

14th – 21st November is Inter Faith Week 2021 and MIFA has arranged a programme of online events hosted by various faith communities across Medway. The final event is on Sunday 21st at 6.00pm from St. Margaret's Church, Rainham: 'Faith and Environment' with Rev. Nathan Ward, Kayleigh Ward and Liz O'Hanlon, You can join on Zoom with the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81938437480?pwd=RW1aV29KZmRkbU9adTJsa0Z3dHVQQT09>

Meeting ID: 819 3843 7480

Passcode: 447512

The Year of Luke

Advent Sunday (28th November in 2021) always sees the start of the ‘new church year.’ You may, or may not, have noticed that our Sunday readings seem to follow a pattern. There is a three-year cycle following Jesus’ life as told by the gospel writers Matthew, Mark and Luke. No, we don’t avoid the Gospel of John – that features especially after Easter and forms an extra section when we are using the shortest Gospel, Mark.

Advent will see us moving from Mark’s gospel to Luke in this pattern. In some ways Luke’s gospel is different from those of Matthew and Mark (even John) since it is volume one of his writings, if we take The Acts of the Apostles, as volume two.

Like the book of Acts, Luke’s gospel is addressed to ‘Theophilus’ – a name meaning lover of God. It is not clear whether this was a particular person or a general group of people. Similarly, the dating of the Gospel has also been problematic, some suggesting around 60AD, other up to twenty years later. There is more agreement that Luke was probably in Rome when he wrote his gospel.

Luke seems to be a great story-teller, his gospel alone includes memorable passages such as the parables of the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. He gives us more information about the birth and childhood of Jesus than any of the other writers and yet he is not among Jesus first disciples and appears to have come lately to the Christian faith.

Luke brings to his books not only a Greek style of writing but also a deep knowledge of the Jewish Law (the Torah) and there are many allusions to the Old Testament. One theologian titles his commentary on Luke, 'The Hospitality of God,' and writes that the whole purpose of the book is to enable people to understand the extravagance of God's love for them. Many people have noted that Luke does seem to focus on the outsiders, those often excluded by both society and the religious leaders of the time. In general it appears that Luke is emphasising that God's plan of salvation is for Jew and Gentile alike.

Luke's focus on God's love certainly doesn't mean Jesus is depicted as 'meek and mild', there are some extremely challenging passages to be faced as we make our journey with Luke. Look at the reading for Advent Sunday for a glimpse of this!

As we journey with Luke over the coming year I am sure we shall find our understanding and faith both challenged and renewed, although much will be familiar perhaps we can try to look afresh and find new insights into God's call upon our lives. some refer to this as a gospel of prayer – Luke records Jesus praying more frequently than in the other gospels.

The world of Luke's time was transient and changing so perhaps we can find confidence in his words for our own world today and follow the prayerful example of Jesus that Luke offers to us.

Elaine



Bible Focus and Prayers



Here are the readings and collects for the coming weeks.

Sunday before Advent (Christ the King) – 21st November

**Daniel 7:9-10,13-14, Psalm 93, Revelation 1:4b-8,
John 18:33-37**

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. Amen.

Advent Sunday – 28th November

**Jeremiah 33:14-18, Psalm 25:1-9, 1 Thessalonians 3:9-end,
Luke 21:25-36**

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent – 5th December

**Baruch 5 or Malachi 3:1-4, Canticle: 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.

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



Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal 2021

Thanks to all who were able to support the Shoebox appeal again this year, we collected 30 boxes and they have already gone to be checked, sorted and distributed by the Blythswood volunteers.

Foodbank Reverse Advent Calendar

Together with this Newsletter you will find a copy of the Medway Foodbank's 'Reverse Advent Calendar.' This arrived after the previous Newsletter was posted but it's not too late to take part



It is not practical to leave occasional donations in the churches but if you can continue to support the Foodbank, then Pat Long is happy to collect your donations if you get in touch with her (01634 309170 *or* 07792 277 739)

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

Rev. Elaine 01634 684888

elaine.cranmer@gmail.com

Rev. David 01634 862265

david.kichenside@gmail.com

Rev. Paul 07306 023483

revphtsc@btinternet.com

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, serving the communities of Blue Bell Hill, Lordswood and Walderslade.

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