

The United Benefice of Henley-on-Thames with Remenham
THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN
Registered Charity

Sunday 1 December 2019
The First Sunday of Advent

Welcome to this ancient Parish Church. If you are a visitor or a new member of the congregation, you will find the order of service in the booklets. The hymns are not announced - they can be found on this sheet. The crèche is available throughout the service for toddlers and parents; Junior Church also takes place in the Chantry House.

Tea & coffee are served in the Chantry House after the service: please join us and make yourself known.

Mass St Anne's Mass *James MacMillan*

Entrance Hymn: **501** Advent Prose

The Opening Prayer

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The Future House of God

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

Judgement Pronounced on Arrogance

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

The Second Reading: Romans 13:11-end

An Urgent Appeal

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 122

R/ I was glad when they said, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'

I was glad when they said to me,
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'

And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem; **R/**

Jerusalem, built as a city
that is at unity in itself.
Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
as is decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
For there are set the thrones of judgement,
the thrones of the house of David. **R/**

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
'May they prosper who love you.
'Peace be within your walls
and tranquillity within your palaces.' **R/**

For my kindred and companions' sake,
I will pray that peace be with you.
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good. **R/**

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:36-44

The Necessity for Watchfulness

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Offertory Hymn: **16** Wake, O wake!
During which an offertory collection will be taken

The Communion Hymn: **295** Let all mortal flesh keep silence

The Choir Anthem: Adam lay ybounden *Boris Ord*

The Final Hymn: **3** Come, thou long-expected Jesus (Second Tune)

The Organ Voluntary: Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645 *J.S.Bach*

Today's Sung Eucharist:

Sidesmen	Lavinia Southern and Athley Cowling
Lesson	George Constantinidi and Kathleen Cosnet
Intercessions	Terry Grouk
Servers	Sheila Croton and Norman Topsom
Chalice	Sheila Croton and Carol Brook-Partridge
Coffee	Cleone Augur and Pauline Lester

Please replace the kneelers on your pew before leaving. Thank you!

Today 6.30pm Candlelit Advent Carol Service (SM)

This Week

- Mon 2 St Mary's School Carol Concert 6.00pm
Tues 3 Julian Group 7.45pm for 8.00pm (Forge Cottage, Hart St)
Wed 4 Babies And Toddlers Session 10.00am (SM)
Sue Ryder Lights of Love 7.00pm (SM)
Thur 5 Eucharist 10.00am (SM) HCS staging set up (SM)
Choir Practice: Juniors 6pm Seniors 8pm (SM)
Fri 6 Praying Together 9.30am (CH)
Funeral of Christine Southwell 10.30am (SN)
Rupert House School Carol Service 2.00pm (SM)
Henley Choral Society rehearsal 5.30pm (SM)
Sat 7 Henley Choral Society Christmas Concerts 2.30pm & 7.00pm (SM)
Morning Prayer will be said at 9am and Evening Prayer usually at 5pm at St Mary's weekdays

Sunday 8th December ~ Advent 2

- 8.00am Eucharist (SM) *Celebrant & Preacher Fr Jeremy*
9.30am Sung Eucharist, Junior Church & Creche (SM)
Celebrant & Preacher The Venerable Judy French
11.15am Patronal Festival Holy Communion with Hymns (BCP) (SN)
Celebrant & Preacher The Venerable Judy French
7.30pm Elvis by Candlelight (SM)

Please pray for

The church:

*Mission agencies and their work throughout the Anglican Communion
Bishop Colin confirming at Wykeham.*

The sick:

Nicola, Neil, Helen, Stella, Maria, Henry, Richard, Duncan, Sue, Robert, Anne

The departed: Pam Cole, Christine Southwell

Those whose year's minds falls this week: Richard Lewis (1)

Notices for the week beginning 1st December

Pam Cole's funeral will take place in St Mary's on Monday 9th December at 2pm. Please remember Pam's family in your prayers.

On Sunday 8th December, The Venerable Judy French will be presiding and preaching at both St Mary's and St Nicholas at 9.30am and 11.15am; Fr Jeremy will preside and preach at 8am at St Mary's.

All are invited to a little pre-Christmas drinks party at the Rectory on 6 December, starting at 6pm and continuing till late. This is also to celebrate the Finnish Independence Day, so Finnish delicacies will be served!

Fr Jeremy's Advent book recommendations: Rachel Mann's *In the Bleak Midwinter: Advent and Winter with Christina Rossetti* – a selection of poems and reflections for each day of the Advent and Christmas seasons. For those who find Christina Rossetti a little too melancholy, Bishop Nick Baines' *Freedom is Coming* could be a good alternative. The Bishop of Leeds takes readers through Advent and Christmas with the Prophet Isaiah. The prophecy of Isaiah is an excellent place to start in

deepening our understanding and appreciation of the Hebrew Scriptures. Something different again is offered in *Dipping into Advent* by Fr Alan Hilliard, an Irish Roman Catholic priest, and his book is rich in irony and humour as well as biblical references, combining stories and anecdotes from his pastoral experience with his own photographs. If anyone would like help getting hold of these books let Fr Jeremy know.

Week by week our flower ladies produce magnificent floral arrangements to enhance the beauty of our marvellous church. Twice a year at the major festivals of Easter and Christmas, they fill the church with wonderful floral tributes to the glory of God. This comes at some considerable expense and it is necessary to reach out to friends and the congregation for donations towards these costs. If you would like to contribute to the fund for the Christmas 2019 arrangements, please hand your donation to Sheila Constantinidi or the church wardens, Robin or Sue. Thank you.

Sue Hockley and the Junior Church Team will be running a Christmas Children's Workshop on Saturday 14th December in the Chantry House from 10am – 12.30pm. If you would like to bring your children or grandchildren to a morning of fun and craft activities, please contact the parish office at office.hwr@btinternet.com or on 01491 577340 or Sue at sueh1963@hotmail.co.uk. Look forward to seeing you then.

A beautiful print of the church commissioned originally for the Millennium (church restoration) appeal, by renowned 'Ladybird' artist Martin Aitchison is available to buy in aid of the St Mary's choir fund. At just £12 for a mounted print including details of the artist on the back, this print will fit into any standard 16 x 12 " frame. This would make an ideal Christmas present that will also help to fund the choir. Details from parish office or Gill Aitchison in the choir.

The Henley Food Bank Box can be found by the crèche. Please bring donations on Sunday mornings - toiletry items, tinned veg, tinned fruit, savoury biscuits, tinned meat, long lasting milk, cereal, crisps, biscuits, squash, pasta sauce.

Amnesty International is delighted to welcome the wind quintet 'Syrinx' with pianist Andy Spiceley for a fund-raising concert in the Chantry House at 7.30pm on Friday 20 December. Music will include Mozart's Quintet for Piano and Wind and pieces from the Baroque to the 20th Century. Tickets £14 (£9 unwaged) including refreshments. Contact Amnesty Reading on 07740423894 at amnesty.reading@gmail.com or book on-line at <https://billetto.co.uk> (search 'Chantry House').

Parish Office ~ Mon, Tues 9.30am-12.30pm : Wed, Fri, 9.30am-4.30pm

tel: 577340 email: office.hwr@btinternet.com rector.hwr@btinternet.com

Fr Jeremy is always happy to talk to parishioners about any subject, please call the parish office to make an appointment. Saturday is his day off and Monday morning. Friday is his study day. Fr Jeremy would appreciate being spared calls on these days except in an emergency.