



St. Mary the Virgin, Hartfield
Holy Trinity, Colemans Hatch

Advent Prayer

The lighting of the Advent Crown

God of Abraham and Sara.

And all the Patriachs of old.

You are our Father too.

Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

Son of God and Son of David.

Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit to make his home among us.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

Amen

All:

Lord Jesus Christ, Light of the world,

Born in David's city of Bethlehem,

Born like him to be a king;

Be born in our hearts at Christmas, be King of our lives today.

Amen

First Reading: Jeremiah 33: 14-16

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will fulfil the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.

“In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called:

The LORD Our Righteous Saviour.”



Second Reading: Luke 21: 25-36

‘There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

He told them this parable: ‘Look at the fig-tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

‘Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

‘Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.’

Farewell and Thanks to Katrina, Andy, Alex and Lucy. Not forgetting 'Arthur'!



As many of you will be aware, Andy, Alex, Lucy and I will be moving at the end of the year so that I can take up the post of Associate Minister at Christ Church Chilwell in Nottinghamshire.

Preparations for the move are well underway - we are in the process of purchasing a house close to the church, and we have started the slow process of packing! The house is an extended dormer bungalow, 6 minutes' walk from both church and school, and a short walk from the tram stop to go to the train station, hospital and city.

We heard this week that Alex and Lucy have been offered places at the school closest to the church- this school seemed like a really good fit for them both, and well able to deal with Alex's medical needs.

Our prayer needs over the coming weeks are:

- *To give thanks for school places*
- *That the additional questions and specialist surveys of the house we are buying meet the needs to our bank*
- *That we can get a reasonable removals quote and start talking dates*
- *That Alex's regular visits to the hospital continue to be straightforward, and that the appointment with the surgeon in December is helpful*

We are so thankful for messages of love and support we have received as we prepare to move at Christmas and look forward to spending a little time with as many of you as possible on the 23rd of December.

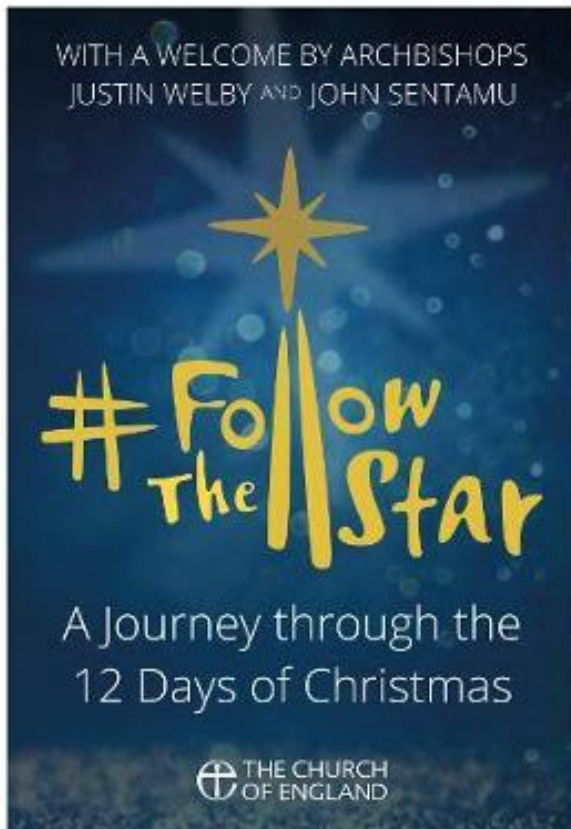
Katrina, Andy, Alex and Lucy

The 23rd December is a joint service at 10am at St Mary's. During that service we will be thanking Katrina and praying for them as a family. We will then join together for a celebratory ploughman's lunch; cake and something sparkly. We would love to bless Katrina with a gift.

If you would like to give something towards the gift, please put it in an envelope with 'Katrina's present' clearly written on the blue envelope.



Welcome from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York



For many of us, Christmas brings up so many emotions, memories and expectations.

We have one nativity story, but it can seem like we all have very different Christmases.

For you it might be a time of joy and togetherness. Or perhaps it's all about planning and to-do lists.

Many others can find it a sad and lonely time – nagged by the feeling that your Christmas is not like those 'perfect' ones we see in the media. But just like the unexpected assortment of people who were invited to meet the baby Jesus, #FollowTheStar doesn't ask you to be perfect.

Cont...

It says: come just as you are to take the life-changing Christmas journey.

Wherever you are this Christmas, you are invited to follow the star and to be with Jesus. You are welcome. You are deeply known and truly loved.

Mary and Joseph and all those caught up in the Christmas story were surprised by the astonishing way that God chose to live among us.

Each Christmas we are reminded of God's longing to surprise us with his gift of joy, love and new life. It's the greatest present we can receive and share with others!

We pray this booklet offers a path for your journey closer to Jesus – and we wish you every blessing this Christmas.

Archbishops Justin Welby & John Sentamu

We will have copies of the booklet for us all to use from Christmas Eve through to Epiphany.



Please note a change in
January 2019:
Rev'd Julie's rest day will be a
Monday, instead of Tuesday,
unless there is a prior
commitment.



On Friday the children at St Mary's School took part in a Christingle afternoon with Rev'd Julie, Katrina and friends from the Church.

There will also be **Christingle Service** at St Mary's today at 4pm.

A Prayer:

Loving God,
Sometimes we are slow to come to you,
Yet we find when we come that you were always with us.

Enable us to travel towards you this Advent,
Trusting that you are waiting to receive us.

Surround us with your patient love,
And open our hearts to welcome your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Diary Dates:

2nd December:

4pm Christingle at St Mary's
6.30pm Advent Carol Service at Holy Trinity

7th December:

7pm Community Carols gathered around Christmas Trees in the Memorial Garden, ending up in the Anchor Pub.

9th December:

9.30am Christmas Praise service at St Mary's
11am Holy Communion with blessing of Crib, Holy Trinity

14th December:

Live Nativity in Hartfield at 6pm.

16th December:

Nine Lessons and Carols, 6.30pm at St Mary's

23rd December:

Joint Service at St Mary's 10am and Farewell to Katrina, Andy, Alex and Lucy

24th December:

Crib Service at St Mary's, 4pm

24th December:

at both churches 11.15pm Midnight Communion

25th December:

8am BCP Holy Communion at St Mary's & 9.30am Christmas Communion

Advent Carol Service with Candlelight and Carols

Holy Trinity, Colemans Hatch

Sunday 2nd December at 6.30pm



Churches Information

Rector:

The Reverend Julie Sear 01892 770436

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Children's, Youth and Families Minister:

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Day off for Rector & Children's and Families Youth Minister is a Tuesday

Administrator: admsmhc@gmail.com

Safeguarding Officer:

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PCC Treasurer:

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Licensed Lay Reader:

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Church Wardens for St Mary's:

Kathy Green 01892 770208

Linda Graham 01892 770487

Hon. Secretary & Church Electoral Roll Officer:

Ian Burns 01892 771014

Church Wardens for Holy Trinity:

John Van Maurik 01892 770273

Paul Double

Hon. Secretary:

CJ Payne cipayne@hotmail.com

Hon. Treasurer:

Donald Clarke drc.scc1897@gmail.com

Church Services

2nd December:

St Mary's 16.00 Christingle

Holy Trinity 18.30 Advent Carols

7th December:

St Mary's 18.00 Lighting of Tree

9th December:

St Mary's 8.00 Holy Communion BCP

St Mary's 9.30 Christmas Praise

Holy Trinity 11.00 Holy Communion

14th December:

St Mary's 18.00 Live Nativity

16th December:

St Mary's 9.30 Holy Communion

Holy Trinity 11.00 Matins

St Mary's 18.30 Nine lessons & carols

23rd December:

Joint Service at St Mary's at 10am

24th December:

St Mary's 16.00 Crib Service

St Mary's 23.15 Midnight Communion

Holy Trinity 23.15 Midnight Communion

25th December:

St Mary's 8am Holy Communion BCP

St Mary's 9.30am Christmas Communion

Holy Trinity 11am Christmas Communion