

*e-news*

## Sunday 10 December 2017

### Second Sunday in Advent

*A very warm welcome to everyone and especially any visitors to our parish.*

*Please introduce yourself to our ministers after the service. If you are new to the area and would like to join our congregation or would like to know more about how we can support you in your faith then please contact us in person and as given on the back of this pew sheet.*

#### **Our Services This Sunday**

HOLY COMMUNION 8.00am (BCP) at St Bartholomew's, Cross in Hand

*A traditional and contemplative start to Sunday.*

President & Preacher: The Rev'd George Pitcher

PARISH EUCHARIST 10am at St Bartholomew's, Cross in Hand

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#### **Other Service and Parish Events in the coming week**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December

11 – 1pm Waldron Country Market  
at Holy Cross Priory

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December

6.15pm Choir Practice at St Bartholomew's

## **Next Sunday**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

**Third Sunday in Advent** at All Saints, Waldron

**8am** Holy Communion (bcp)

President & Preacher The Rev'd Canon Lucy Murdoch

**10am** Morning Prayer

Leader & Preacher Tim Hough

**6pm** Nine Lessons and Carols at All Saints, Waldron

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## **Christmas Services in Waldron and Cross in Hand**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**8am Holy Communion** (bcp) at St Bartholomew's, Cross in Hand

**10am Christmas Eve** - Service of the Word

at St Bartholomew's, Cross in Hand

**4pm Crib Service** at St Bartholomew's, Cross in Hand

**11pm Midnight Mass** at All Saints, Waldron

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**8am** Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's, Cross in Hand

**10am** Family Service at All Saint's, Waldron

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December **First Sunday after Christmas**

at All Saints Waldron - Services at 8am and 10am (see diary)

As this e-news is being posted and sent on Saturday may I just remind you that today is :-

The Waldron **Christmas Fair** will be held on Saturday 9th December with twenty stalls, Father Christmas offering quality presents, and various children's activities. There will be hot chestnuts, donkeys, music and mulled wine for early Christmas cheer. Help is always valued at events, so please contact Tim Williams (twill30999@aol.com) or Ian Dixon (info@focusedfinancialservices.co.uk) if you are happy to lend a hand.

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## **Your organ needs you!**

We have been advised that significant renovation is required to the All Saints organ to overcome current problems and to preserve it for future generations. Please collect a leaflet when leaving the church as this describes the problems and lets you know how you can help.

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**Christmas collections for FSW Sunday 3rd December at All Saints and Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at St Bart's**

Thank you for helping to make Christmas a happier time for the children and families that FSW supports. We'd be very grateful for donations of:

- New toys, games, puzzles and books for children aged 0-14

- Gifts for older teenagers 15-18 – particularly boys.
- Small gifts for parents/carers (not alcohol or chocolate)
- Gift vouchers e.g. Boots, Argos, H&M, New Look, M&S

### **Food:**

We welcome non-perishable Christmas food items with use-by-dates dated after Christmas, such as:

- Stuffing (dry, in packets)
- Gravy granules
- Cranberry sauce (jars)
- Pickles & relishes
- Tinned foods e.g. fruit
- Mince pies
- Christmas pudding
- Biscuits
- Savoury biscuits / crackers
- Boxes/tins of chocolates e.g. Quality Street, Celebrations, Roses
- Tinned cooked meats e.g. ham
- Bottles of non-alcoholic drink e.g. cordial.

### **Plus: Crackers!!**

If anyone has gifts after this Sunday please contact Sarah on 01435 866419 and I will endeavour to get them to the Family workers in time for Christmas.

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### **Ships and Sealing Wax & Many Things**

This is the title of a new book written by Roger Paine. It is a delightful treasure trove of stories to keep you amused, astounded and warmed in equal measure. A book to pick up and dip into at any time and read whatever takes your fancy or suits your mood! Now available from Roger – 01323

845681 or regoreniap@f2s.com. Also at all leading booksellers and online eBook distributors. Cost £12 each with 10% to church funds.

*Recommended stocking filler!*

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# Prayer & Prayers

Have you considered becoming one of our leaders of Intercessional Prayers ? Read below and let us know !

## **A short guide for prayer leaders and intercessors**

There are many and varied ways of praying and we should try to refresh our prayer lives by trying new ones and exploring what suits us best individually, for the times when we pray on our own. But prayer most importantly is a social and corporate exercise – something we do together. That’s because our God is a social God, one who has joined us all in our lives through the life of Jesus Christ. That’s why we come together to pray. And that’s why sometimes we need prayer leadership. So there are some general principles of prayer that we can all share and of which prayer leaders need to be aware.

***What prayer is*** It’s often said that prayer is a means for us to bring ourselves into God’s presence. And that’s true – though it’s worth remembering that God is always with us and it’s we, not He, who gets distracted by all that’s going on in the world. What we’re doing in prayer is turning back from the world to our creator and making ourselves available for his work to be done in and through us. God is not just a bigger version of us, so we’re not trying to change God in our prayers (far less change His mind!), but prayer always

changes us and in changing us it changes the world. A good way of thinking about prayer is that it's about emptying ourselves so there's room for God, through the Holy Spirit, to work in us. It follows that prayer needs to be peaceful and calm so that God can be let in.

***What prayer isn't*** Prayer isn't an administrative connection with God, like sending Him a report of what's going on, because He knows all that (and infinitely more!) already. Because we're trying to let Him in in our prayer, we shouldn't let our own enthusiasm for giving Him information get in the way. So prayers aren't a shopping list of demands for God; nor are they a lecture or a second sermon in church. They are not an opportunity for us to get our own agenda across, because we're taking the world as it is and ourselves as we are to God, not what we wish it and us to be. Prayer isn't a chance to impress God with how worthy or holy we are – it's worth remembering that God doesn't *need* us to be anything, He just wants us, as we are, to join him. So prayer isn't about performing, it's about being.

***How to lead prayer*** When we lead intercessions in church, we're bringing all our prayers together, as the Body of Christ in the world, so we're collectively doing what's described individually above. Think of yourself as the conductor of an orchestra, bring everyone together in harmony. You are prompting the prayerful thoughts of others, not stating them. Don't be afraid of silence, because it's into the silence that others are praying. Prayer doesn't need a lot of words – and sometimes doesn't need words at all. They don't need to be long silences – but little pauses allow the congregation to meet God in prayer. Don't try to state the outcomes or results that we want; if we're praying for the victims of a terrible disaster, just offer them to God, so that He can do His work.

Lead us through easily identifiable offerings to God; the pattern might be World/Church/Need/Departed/Ourselves.

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# PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS

## **THE BOX & THE BOARD**

You will find a PARISH PRAYER REQUEST BOX and RIBBON BOARD situated at the back/entrance of both our churches.

Please write your prayer request on the paper slips provided and place in the box provided if it's a private prayer and on the ribbon board if you'd like others to see and join in with your prayer. Include the name of the person you want to be prayed for and, if you wish, the reason – but single-word prayer, whether it's someone's name or something that's happened, is fine.

Prayers in the box will only be known to the clergy during our services and kept within the parish Prayer Group on Wednesdays.

All names and prayers will be entered in our Prayer Book which will rest on the altar during our Parish Services.

## **THE BOOK**

Your prayer or prayer request will be transcribed into our Parish Prayer Book which will be placed on the altar during our Parish services. Those named in it will be remembered before God by the clergy at all services and daily offices and by the Parish Prayer group when they meet.

From time to time individual long term/on-going prayer needs will be remembered by name on our weekly pew sheets and during our services.

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