

# CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

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DECEMBER 2018

I share with you what I recently shared in a United Reformed Church Newsletter (which some may have already seen). On Saturday, the 1<sup>st</sup> December, we begin to open the doors of our Advent Calendars. When I was young we did not have the prospect of chocolates to eat but it was still incredibly exciting to open the door and see what picture was inside. I always liked seeing the pictures that related to the Christmas story. I am sure that I wished away most of the Decembers of my childhood, looking forward with great anticipation to Christmas Day. This year, Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, is the first Sunday of Advent in our church calendars. I love the season of Advent, and Christmas. It is wonderful to have a season, however we use that time, to expectantly wait for something to happen. Because, of course, the joy of waiting is not in the agonising slowness of the days passing but in the time that we spend in reflection. For me, Advent is a joyous time of reflection, thinking about the awesomeness of our God, looking forward to the birth of Jesus, God coming to us as a baby, so that we could listen and hear what God is saying to us. So that he can tell us and demonstrate to us how much he loves us. In that sort of waiting and anticipation, we can begin to dream dreams and see beyond those things that tend to distract us. I remember, when I was about ten, sitting in a Christmas carol service, feeling filled with the joy of God and thinking in those moments that I wanted to do something for God in my life. Then, I thought that meant that I might be a missionary! I think we had recently visited David Livingstone's birthplace; I was living in Scotland at the time. But I have never forgotten that moment. Let us embrace Advent, and approach Christmas this year, with that all-consuming passion that children so often show, with that awe of expectancy that seems to get a little lost as we grow older. Even in all the busyness of the season that can so often overtake us as adults let us allow God to speak to us, and, like Mary, let us be ready to hear God calling us to all sorts of extraordinary things as his children.

Have a great month, a reflective Advent, and a peaceful and joyous Christmas, everyone. And a great celebration and a very Happy Birthday if you were born during this month. The peace, the love, and the welcome of our generous God be with you.

Yours in Christ, *Sarah*

## SERVICES THIS MONTH

Morning Prayer on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8.00am  
Evening Prayer on Thursdays at 5.00pm to pray for our community

Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	10.00am	Holy Communion <i>with Children's Groups and Nativity Preparation</i>
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	8.45am 10.00am	Holy Communion Morning Worship <i>with Children's Groups and Nativity Preparation</i>
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	5.00pm	Christmas Messy Church
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11.00am	Communion Service at The Maples
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00am	Holy Communion <i>with Children's Groups and Nativity Preparation</i>
Thu 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11.30am	Communion Service at Homenene House
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	10.00am 6.00pm	Nativity Service Carol Service by Candlelight
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	4.30pm 11.30pm	Christingle Service Midnight Holy Communion
Tues 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	CHRISTMAS DAY	
	10.00am	All Age Holy Communion
Sun 30 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00am	All Age Holy Communion
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10.00am 11.30am	Epiphany Holy Communion Time For God *

\*An informal service, especially for families, children & young people

## USEFUL CONTACTS

**MINISTER:** Revd Sarah Gower  
Christ Church House, 1 Benstead, Orton Goldhay, PE2 5JJ  
01733 394411  
[sarahcgower@btinternet.com](mailto:sarahcgower@btinternet.com)

**LICENSED LAY MINISTER:** Lynessa Austen  
**CHILDREN'S AUTHORISED LAY MINISTER:** Sarah Bereznyckyj  
**CHURCHWARDENS:** Alan Baker 07966 780727  
Mike Farnham 01733 235860

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Helen Barnett, Sarah Bereznyckyj, Jenny Farnham, David Gower, John Mason, Valerie Octon, Sheila Tansey, Debby Thorn

**SAFEGUARDING OFFICER:** Jenny Farnham

**CHURCH TELEPHONE:** 01733 230299

## EVENTS DURING DECEMBER

CCH\* is Christ Church House

Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	6.00pm	Advent Carol Service, Alwalton
Tue 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.30pm	Messy Church Planning Meeting, CCH*
Thu 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11.00am	Lunch Club Please ring Gay - 01733 233230 before Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December to book a meal. <i>Concluding with</i> 2.00pm Holy Communion Service 7.30pm Thursday Evening Group, Church
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.00pm	Compline
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.00am	Gutter Clearing, Church
Wed 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	1.00pm 5.00-7.00pm	Pre-School Christingle Service Christmas Messy Church – all are welcome to come and/or to help
Thu 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	1.15pm 7.30pm	Little CCogs, Church Thursday Evening Group, hosted by Alan
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.30am  11.00am 2.00-4.00pm	St John's School End of Term Service, Church The Maples Communion Service Christmas Coffee Connect @Christ.Church. Do come along to chat, eat cake, laugh
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.00pm 8.15am 11.00am	Compline Prayer Breakfast, Church Churches Together in the Ortons Carol Singing in the Ortongate Centre
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	3.00pm	Christian Presence Christmas Show
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7.30pm	Licensing of Revd Imogen Falvey to the Orton Benefice, St Mary's, Orton Waterville
Tue 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00am	Ormiston Meadows School Christmas Service, Church
Thu 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11.30am 7.30pm	Homenene House Communion Service Thursday Evening Group, CCH*
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	9.00pm	Compline, Church
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight followed by Refreshments
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	4.30pm	Christingle Service

Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Dec 9.00pm Compline

### MESSAGE FROM SARAH, THE TREASURER

The Weekly Giving Envelopes have arrived. Please could you confirm with Sarah B that you would like to continue receiving these for 2019 or if you would like to receive them for the first time. Thank you.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec: Please pray for our world in this season of Advent, that it would be a time for people to understand what Christmas is really about, and to know the hope that Jesus brings.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Dec: Please pray for the Ortons – for all who live and work here.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Dec: Please pray for children this Christmas, especially those who live in places of deprivation. Please pray for all who for whom the celebration of Christmas is difficult.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace. Thank God for the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. Please pray that our world will long for and know peace.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Dec: As we come to the end of this, please pray for us all to be able to give to God all that has happened during the course of 2018, and look forward to 2019 with hope in our God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

### CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

- 1<sup>st</sup> December – Ayo's Group  
6<sup>th</sup> December – Thursday Evening Group  
15<sup>th</sup> December – Prayer Breakfast  
22<sup>nd</sup> December – Keith's Group  
29<sup>th</sup> December – Ayo's Group

### NOTE

If there is anything that you would like included on the Notice Sheet for January, please contact Kerry before the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

Please pick up the Newsletter for Children, Families and Young People.