

## **Bulletin for the weeks beginning 30<sup>th</sup> November – 28<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November – First Sunday of Advent**

10.30am: Holy Communion with baptism of Lorenzo Dino-Boffa Luxford

**Readings: Romans 13. 11-14; Matthew 24. 36-44**

### **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

10.00am: Albright's Tots

1.30pm: Time to Talk Tuesday

### **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

Francis Xavier, Missionary, Apostle of the Indies, 1552

12.00pm: Parish Lunch

### **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

John of Damascus, Mark, Teacher, c. 749

Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding

### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 326

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Second Sunday of Advent**

Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher, 397

10.00am: Communion at All Saint's

### **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

10.00am: Ladies Fellowship

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

10.30am: Community Coffee Morning with Christmas Carols

### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

Days of Intercession and Thanksgiving for Missionary Work of the church

### **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304

Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784

Ember Day

### **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Third Sunday of Advent**

John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher, 1591

10.30am: Holy Communion

### **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

Ember Day

### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

Ember Day

10.00am: Albright's Tots

1.30pm: Time to Talk Tuesday

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - O Sapientia**

Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of 'Save The Children', 1928  
10.30am: Community Coffee Morning

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December - O Adonai**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December - O Root of Jesse**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December - O Key of David**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December - O Morning Star**

10.00am: Communion at All Saint's – Archdeacon Ruth

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - O King of the Nations**

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December - O Emmanuel**

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve**

3.00pm: Crib Service – Archdeacon Ruth

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**

11.00am: Holy Communion

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

John, Apostle and Evangelist

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

The Holy Innocents

10.30am: Holy Communion

**St. Albright's in Vacancy**

News from Archdeacon Ruth. We received one application and the Bishop and Archdeacon decided not to interview. The post will be readvertised in December, with shortlisting in January and interview in February.

We pray for the right person to apply.

If you need more information, please speak to Pam or Ravi.

**Churchyard**

The group for maintaining the churchyard is still happy to have any further volunteers  
Further information from Steve [s.whitfield07@btinternet.com](mailto:s.whitfield07@btinternet.com) or 07833472766

**Books**

Next to the main door of the church there is a bookcase with many interesting and useful Christian books on a wide variety of subjects. Do take time to have a look at them and feel free to borrow as many as you like.

### **Children at St. Albright's**

Children are welcome at all of our services. There are always crafts and activities available in church focused on the theme of the day.

### **Community coffee morning**

Our community coffee morning is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month, between 10.30am - 12 noon. Our next gathering will be on **Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December**. Everyone is welcome.

### **Family Communion**

Usually on the third Sunday of the month, if there is a baptism, the 10.30 Eucharist follows a shorter and simpler form, and families are particularly welcome to this service. The next one will be this **Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> November** with baptism of Lorenzo Dino-Boffa Luxford.

### **St Albrights Tots**

A great playgroup for younger children which meets every Tuesday, except the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, from 10.00 to 11.30 in the hall during term time. The next meeting will be this **Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December** and on **Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December**.

New helpers are always welcome. Please speak to Pam if you are interested or if you know of anyone who might be.

### **Stanwell Hub**

'Time to Talk Tuesday' meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at St. Andrew's Hall 1.30 to 3.00 pm. The next meeting will be this **Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December** and on **Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December**.

### **Holy Communion at home**

If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or if you know anyone who might, then please contact Pam.

### **Giving and Stewardship**

Along with most parish churches, St. Albright's relies almost entirely on voluntary giving. We have received grants for specific projects, such as for the new roof and for our pioneering ministry, along with donations and legacies (some very generous) plus fee income from weddings and the like, but the everyday running of the church and our essential contribution to the wider Church, the diocese, comes from the giving of individuals. There is no state aid or subsidy, something which many find surprising. However, giving to the Church in terms of time and talents as well as money, has always been a fundamental aspect of being a Christian - supporting each other within the Christian community is a firm Biblical principle and one which we achieve at St. Albright's. So giving is not just a worthy and good thing to do, it is an important, vital, part of being Church and of continuing our witness and ministry to the parish.

These days there are many ways to give:

We now have a new card reader in church so that donations may be made using a debit or credit card.

It is also possible to donate to St. Albright's online. There is a dedicated page on the website to make giving much easier.

If you would like further details about how to give, and there are many ways to do so, then please contact any of the ministry team or churchwardens. We particularly welcome regular giving, however small, either using weekly envelopes or by standing order, and, if you are a taxpayer we can reclaim Gift Aid.

It is also possible to sponsor a day in the life of the church. You may wish to make a one-off donation in memory of someone or to celebrate a particular event. Please contact any of the ministry team or Churchwardens.

Flowers. If you would like to donate towards the cost of providing the beautiful flowers in church, then please speak to any of the ministry team.

### **Safeguarding**

We aim to be a safe and welcoming church community. If you have any worries or concerns, you can speak to our parish safeguarding officer (Pam Higham) at any time (numbers at the end of this bulletin. Alternatively, you can contact the diocesan safeguarding team on 01245-294444

### **For your prayers**

#### **The Advent Collect**

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.

#### **Collect for Andrew the Apostle**

Almighty God, who gave such grace to your apostle Saint Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ and brought his brother with him: call us by your word, and give us grace to follow you without delay and to tell the good news of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

#### **Collect for Second Sunday of Advent**

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

#### **Collect for Third Sunday of Advent**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise

so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

#### **Collect for Fourth Sunday of Advent**

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

#### **Collect for Christmas Eve**

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

#### **Collect for Christmas Day**

Almighty God, you have given us your only begotten son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy spirit; through Jesus Christ your son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

#### **Collect for Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr**

Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr Stephen grace to pray for those who took up stones against him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt, looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us, Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

#### **Collect for John, Apostle and Evangelist**

Merciful Lord, cast your bright beams of light upon the church: that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John, we may so walk in the light of your truth that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord, who is alive with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

#### **Collect for Holy Innocents**

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered in the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reigns of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

#### **A Prayer for the Middle East:**

Almighty God, from all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle we pray in the hearts of all the true love of peace, and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquillity your

kingdom may go forward until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

A Prayer for Ukraine:

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

There are many places in the world that are suffering from conflicts and warfare, in particular the Sudan and the DRC (Congo).

**We pray for our King, HM King Charles III, our sovereign and Governor of the Church of England, Our Prime Minister and government, all our elected representatives - our MPs, county, city and parish councillors.**

**In our church community, please pray for:**

Our churchwardens and PCC

Our Choir and Choirmaster

All who help lead our worship - especially readers, intercessors, servers and sidespersons

The ministry and pastoral teams as we seek to help those in particular need.

Those who care for the hall.

Our Architect and the building team

All those who are to be baptized and confirmed. Upcoming baptisms:, Lorenzo Dino-Boffa Luxford, Peace and Joshua Olatunde, Liam Anthony O'Brien, Joseph Newman.

Pray for all those who have been baptised and for our continued connection with baptism families.

All those are getting married; Chris Palmer and Emily Dowrick, Ryan Scot and Gemma Story and all who are having their banns called here.

Our outreach, particularly with young people and to the schools in the parish.

**In the diocese of Chelmsford, please pray for** the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt. Rev. Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, and for the Bishop of Colchester, the Rt. Rev Roger Morris. Please also pray for our Archdeacon, the Ven. Ruth Patten, and for all the other parishes in the Colchester Deanery.

The diocese of Chelmsford has links with several overseas dioceses in the Anglican communion: in Kenya - Embu, Meru, Mbere and Marsabit; and the diocese of Trinidad and Tobago. There are also links with the diocese of Karlstad in Sweden and the Archdiocese of Lasi in Romania. Please pray for the bishops, clergy and people of these places.

**In the Anglican Communion, please pray for** The Most Rev, Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York and acting Archbishop of Canterbury.

**In the wider Church, please pray for** the Orthodox Patriarchate of Ukraine, for the Church in South Sudan, for Christian communities in Israel and Palestine, and for all Christians persecuted for their faith.

**In the wider world, please pray for** a better and wiser stewardship of our natural environment.

For the peace of the world wherever there is conflict.

All the nations of the world and their leaders

### **In our Community**

Please pray for : The medical and caring professions, Other Christian denominations - the Tollgate Methodist Fellowship, Stanway Evangelical Church, The Kingsland Church, St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church, Lexden, Colchester Foodbank, Colchester Debt Centre, Colchester Korban Project, Colchester Engagement and Next Steps, The StanWell Hub, All families with young children, and for all our schools. The elderly, vulnerable and for all those who support them, especially their families. Loganberry Lodge - all residents, staff and supporters and all who are in care homes and hospital at this time.

Those who have asked for our prayers: Karl, Joan Alexander, Debra, Daniel, Carol Harvey, Gordon Harvey, Keith, Penny Miller, Daniel Butcher, Ann Booty, Marcus, Mark Claydon, Allison, Sophie, Jo and Richard, Doreen Hales, Jenny Richardson, Brian Greenaway, Ann and John, Graham and Viv, Alex, Alexander, Simon, Joshua, Jill Dixon, Mervyn, Antony Watson, Maxine Humes, Jean Needs, Suzannah, Irene Brewer, John & Hazel, Morgan Burgoyne, Ann Adams, Dorothy Williams, John Perfect, Tony Windsor, Vitaly and Rosolaka, Nicola Jones, Ali, Shirley Vaughan, Suvianna, Arji

If you have a particular prayer request there is a box in the church into which you can place a card writing the request or person's name on it. Alternatively you can send a message to the office.

The monthly prayer diary for **December** is on our website with printed copies in the church and distributed to those without access to the internet.

There is also the Church of England **Prayer Line** which is open 24/7 and is free: **0800 804 804**

### **RIP**

Damian Taylor, Tom Morgan, Linda Brook, Joanne Marie Doman, Mason Morgan, Jean Gilbert, Babs Baker, Leonard Comben, Tony Momotiuk, Adeleye Adediran Aluko

We hope you find this bulletin helpful. If you have any contributions, comments or questions then please contact the office or any of the ministry team.

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