

Bulletin for the week beginning 8th December

Sunday 8th December – Second Sunday of Advent

09.00am: Holy Communion

10.30am: Parish Eucharist

Readings: Malachi 3. 1-4; Canticle (Luke 1. 68-79); Philipians 1. 3-11; Luke 3. 1-6

Monday 9th December

09.15am: Morning Prayer

6.00pm: Advent Quiet – The Promise of his Glory

Tuesday 10th December

10.00am: Ladies Fellowship

Wednesday 11th December

Ember day

09.30am: Holy Communion

10.30am: community coffee Morning

Thursday 12th December

09.00am: St Mary's Lower School Christmas Service

Friday 13th December

Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304

Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784

Ember Day

10.30am: Holy Communion at Loganberry Lodge

Saturday 14th December

John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher, 1591

Ember Day

Sunday 15th December – Third Sunday of Advent

09.00am: Holy Communion

10.30am: Parish Eucharist

4.00pm: Nine Lessons and Carols (Mayoral Service)

Advent

The season of Advent, the beginning of the church year.

On Mondays during Advent there will be a short service of prayer in church at 6.00pm – The Promise of His glory. A time of peace and quiet to prepare for Christmas. The dates are 9th, 16th and 23rd December.



Sunday 15th December: Nine Lessons and Carols (Mayoral Carol Service)

St Albright's Church at 4.00pm



24th December, (Christmas Eve) Crib Service

St Albright's Church at 5.00pm

Midnight Mass: St Albright's Church 11.30pm

Christmas Day: Parish Eucharist St Albright's Church at 10.30am

Christmas Bazaar

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas Bazaar last Saturday. It was great fun and we raised for Church funds, £1, 225.00. particular thanks to David Tibbetts-Chaplin who organised the event.

Church Heating

We are delighted to announce that the installation of a new heating system has begun!. There will be heaters underneath most of the pews and in the choir stalls and should be operating soon.

Church Gardeners

The group for maintaining the churchyard is still happy to have any more volunteers. Please contact Steve Whitfield on 07833-472766 or s.whitfield07@btinternet.com

Stanwell Hub

'Time to Talk Tuesday' now meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at St. Andrew's Hall 1.30 to 3.00 pm. The next will be on **Tuesday, 21st January 2025**. You can find details of what is happening at Time to Talk Tuesday and other wellbeing matters on StanWell Hub Facebook page [here](#).

Community coffee morning

Our community coffee morning is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, between 10.30am - 12 noon. Our next gathering will be this **Wednesday, 11th December**. Everyone is welcome. the next one after this will be on **Wednesday, 8th January**.

Children at St. Albright's

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

Family Communion

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.

St Albright's Tots

A great playgroup for younger children which meets every Tuesday, except the 2nd Tuesday of the month, from 10.00 to 11.30 in the hall during term time. The next one will be on **Tuesday, 17th December** for Christmas Craft.

Holy Communion at home

If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or if you know anyone who might, then please contact any member of the ministry team. There is also a Parish Pastoral Support Team whose members are able to visit, help and support those in particular need.

Giving

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.

For your prayers

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 us 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.

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.

We pray for peace in 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.

We continue to pray for the people and nations of Ukraine and Russia. For peace and for the relief of suffering. The prayer tree will be remaining in the church until the conflict is over.

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.

Amen

Archbishop Justin Welby, Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

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

We pray for our King, HM King Charles III, our sovereign and Governor of the Church of England

In our church community, please pray for:

Our churchwardens and PCC

Our director of music and the choir

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: Joseph Newman and Eloise Slater.

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

All those who have been married at St. Albright's in 2024 and all who have had 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. Our Area Dean is Canon Erwin Lammens, vicar of Wivenhoe. The Assistant Area Dean is the Rev. Hannah Cooper, vicar of St. Luke's, Highwoods, and the Lay Chair is Lynne Gettings.

In the Anglican Communion, please pray for our Archbishops, the Most Rev Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and the Most Rev, Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York.

Please also pray for the Provincial Episcopal Visitors - The Bishop of Richborough, (vacant) and the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, the Rt Rev Dr Rob Munro and the Bishop of Oswestry the Rt. Rev Paul Thomas.

The diocese of Chelmsford has links with several overseas dioceses in the Anglican communion: in Kenya - Embu, Meru, Mberere 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 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, especially for the delegates at COP 29.

For the peace of the world wherever there is conflict.

All the nations of the world and their leaders, especially the U.S.A

Our Prime Minister and government.

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 those who have to isolate, 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.

All our elected representatives - our MPs, county, city and parish councillors.

Those who have asked for our prayers: Karl, Sheila Bradfield , 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

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 8044**

RIP

Emma O'Connell, Sylvia Bannister, John Currell, Eileen Spurgeon, Richard Van Aswegen, Robert Radcliffe, Phyllis Evelyn Clark, Richard Ives, Shirley McCormack, Snowy Barron, Stephen Spice, Veronica Morgan, Valeria Florea, Richard Mugford, Ida Totham, Donald Rampton, Paul Williams.

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.

With best wishes,

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