Bulletin for the weeks beginning 29th November - 27th December

Sunday 29th November – First Sunday of Advent
11.00am: Parish Eucharist
2.00pm: Baptism of Margot Grime
Readings: Isaiah 64. 1-9; Psalm 80. 1-8, 18-20; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13. 24-end

Monday 30th November – Andrew the Apostle

Tuesday 1st December
Charle de Foucauld, Hermit in the Sahara, 1916
Daily Eucharistic Lectionary Year 1 begins
10.00am: St Albright's Tots

Wednesday 2nd December
12.00pm: Parish Lunch

Thursday 3rd December
Francis Xavier, Missionary Apostle of the Indies, 1552

Friday 4th December
John of Damascus, Monk, Teacher, c. 749
Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, Founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637

Sunday 6th December – Second Sunday of Advent
11.00am: Parish Eucharist
Readings: Isaiah 40. 1-11; Psalm 85. 1-2, 8-end; 2 Peter 3. 8-15a; Mark 1. 1-8
3pm Youth at the Farm

Monday 7th December
Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, Teacher, 397

Tuesday 8th December
The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Martin of Porres, Friar, 1639
10.00am: Ladies Fellowship

Wednesday 9th December
Ember Day
10.30am: Community Coffee Morning

Friday 11th December
Ember Day

Saturday 12th December
Ember Day
2.30pm: Christmas Afternoon Tea – At St Cedd's Shrub End

Sunday 13th December – Third Sunday of Advent
11.00am: Parish Eucharist
4 – 5.30pm Children's Christmas Party All Saints

Readings: Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-end; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonian 5. 16-24; John 1. 6-8, 19-28

Monday 14th December
John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher, 1591

Tuesday 15th December
10.00am: St Albright's Tots

Thursday 17th December – O Sapientia
Eglantine Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of 'save the Children' 1928

Sunday 20th December – Fourth Sunday of Advent
11.00am: Parish Eucharist
Readings: 2 Samuel 7. 1-11, 16; Psalm 89. 1-4, 19-26; Romans 16. 25-end; Luke 1. 26-38
4.00pm: Carols by Candlelight

Tuesday 22nd December
10.00am: Albright's Tots

Wednesday 23rd December
Elizabeth of Hungary, Princess of Thuringia, Philanthropist, 1231

Thursday 24th December – Christmas Eve
3.00pm: Nativity Service
11.30pm: Midnight Mass

Friday 25th December – Christmas Day
10.00am: Christmas Day Service – At All Saints

Saturday 26th December – Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

Sunday 27th December – First of Christmas
11.00am: Parish Eucharist
Readings: Isaiah 61. 10-62.3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4. 4-7; Luke 2. 15-21

Advent Bible Study
Ray, from All Saints with St Cedd's, is running a joint Bible Study for both parishes based around the theme of Advent on every Wednesdays in December 10-11am in the annexe at All Saints Church. All are very welcome. Please let Rev Nikki know if you plan on coming to pass on an idea of numbers.

Christmas Afternoon Tea
Everyone is invited to St Cedd's Shrub End on Saturday, 12th December at 2.30pm for their Christmas afternoon tea. Theres is a £10 cost person and a deposit of £5 is required. If you will like to book, please contact Rev Nikki on 01206 765145 option 1, or Brenda on 01206 765145 option 2. Please state any dietary requirements.

Volunteers Needed!
The church is desperately in need of help in the following volunteer roles;-

General – Side persons, Readers, daily opening and closing of church and hall (Mondays after Brownies), general janitorial duties of the hall, linen laundry bi monthly
Safeguarding – Dashboard Coordinator, DBS Recruiter, Safer Recruitment Co-ordinator, Parish Safeguarding Officer
Admin – Pew bulletin, Monthly bulletin, Reading and intercessor rotas, Printing tasks, church website/ A Church Near You website management, Facebook posts for the Church, Set out and print APCM reports, Creating posters and leaflets for advertising, Monitor and respond to admin emails and answer phone, Update Church Desk.

Please speak to Rev Nikki or email revnikkihorsley@gmail.com if you can help. Training for roles will be given.

Community coffee morning
Our community coffee morning is on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, between10.30am - 12 noon**.** Our next gatherings will be on **Wednesday, 9th December.** Everyone is welcome.

Family Communion
Usually on the fourth Sunday of the month, and sometimes there is a baptism too. The 11.00am Eucharist follows a shorter and simpler form, and families are particularly welcome to this service.

St Albrights 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.
There will be no session this Tuesday, 26th October due to half term. Next sessions will be on **Tuesday, 1st and 15th December.**

New helpers are always welcome. Please speak to Rev'd Nikki if you are interested or if you know of anyone who might be.

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 or Rev'd Nikki.

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 (Rev'd Nikki) at any time (numbers at the end of this bulletin). Alternatively, you can contact the diocesan safeguarding team on 01245-294444

For your prayers

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 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.

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, Frist 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, on God, now and for ever.

Collect for First of Christmas
Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; 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.

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
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.

Pray for all those who have been baptised and for our continued connection with baptism families.
All those who are getting married 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 Archbishop of Canterbury and Archbishop of York.

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, 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, Mervyn, Maxine Humes, Jean Needs, Suzannah, Irene Brewer, John & Hazel, Morgan Burgoyne, Ann Adams, Dorothy Williams, Vitaly and Rosolaka, Nicola Jones, Ali, Shirley Vaughan, Suvianna, Arji, Rafael and Rebecca, Joy Sparkes, Claire Jones, John, John Lemon, Tonia jones

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
Linda Brook, Joanne Marie Doman, Mason Morgan, Jean Gilbert, Babs Baker, Leonard Comben, Tony Momotiuk, Adeleye Adediran Aluko, Alice Bolton, John Cheale, Tony Windsor, Chris Lay, Jill Dixon, Sheila Bradfield, Sheila Gibbs, Gordon Harvey, Jenny Wren, Joan Fisher, Doreen Hales

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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