

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December** *Readings: 2 Chronicles 9, Jude, Zephaniah 1, Luke 23*

8am	Holy Communion in St John's
9.30am	Time to Pray in the Eddowes Room
10am	Morning Prayer in St John's (Jude 5-16)
2pm	Christmas invitation door-to-door - meet in the Church Extension
6.30pm	Holy Communion in St John's (Philippians 2:5-11)
8pm	Crossover meet at Nathan & Jo Phillingham's home

*For more details about the daily Bible reading plan, including online readings, please visit our website*

### **Prayer Diary – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018**

**The Collect for today – Advent Sunday:**

*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 so that on the last day, when he will come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

**Please pray for...**

*the sick and the bereaved:*

*our mission partners:* Andrew Pettinger (TWR in UK) and the Persecuted Church worldwide.

*our local schools:*

- Sir Leslie Martin & Old School House Nurseries, and other schools which members of the church are involved in.
- Hartford Church of England High School.
- For Christian pupils who dare to be known as Christians in school: that they would know God's presence and strength amid the ridicule that accompanies this stance.

**Church Office** phone number 01606 872255

### **Notice Sheet for Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018**

All services are in **St John's Church** unless stated otherwise.

**8am Holy Communion**

**9.30am Prayer Meeting** in the Eddowes Room

**10am Morning Prayer** - Jude 1-4; *Contending for the faith*

**6.30pm Evening Prayer** - Romans 3: *Readers: A Celebration and Call*

**8pm Crossover** meet at Nathan & Jo Phillingham's home

**8.15pm After 8s** meet at Rob & Kathryn Payne's home

**Preachers elsewhere today:**

Phil at St Stephen's, Moulton (10.45am)

### **Christmas Welcome Team & Firewardens**

For our Christmas services (23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> December) we always need extra people to join the regulars on the Welcome Team and, for our candlelight services, we also require firewardens to look after the candles. In addition, we have lost some of our morning Welcome Team and are looking to recruit five new members. If anyone wants to try out the role before signing up, Christmas would be a perfect time! If you can help, please contact Debbie Nobes.

### **Meeting about Thursday Café**

Sarah Farmer has headed up the Thursday Café for a number of years but will stand down at the end of this year. We are also going to be short of cooks for the new year, so the current model of the café may not be able to continue. As this has been a very important ministry to our local community we would like to carry on the café in some form. If you would be interested in being a part of that or have ideas to contribute, please come along to a meeting on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, at 3pm, in the Church Centre. *Mike*.

### **Parish Carol Singing**

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December we will be singing carols around the streets of Hartford and inviting the residents to come along to one of our Christmas services. We will meet at 5.50pm outside the Church Centre and will aim to finish by 7.30pm. Anyone can join in, whatever age - just come along and sing enthusiastically about our Saviour's birth.

### **Christmas Invitation Door-to-Door**

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December we will be going door knocking on some streets in the parish. The purpose is to warmly greet people, invite them to our services, and bid them a Happy Christmas with a small gift from the church. We will meet at 2pm in the Church Extension where we will have a briefing and pray together before going out. We would love as many as possible to serve in this way. If you have never done this before, you can be partnered with someone who has. Families and children can also be involved in this work. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of church this week, so that we have an idea of how many roads to cover; or have a chat with Alec.

### **Lunchtime Recital**

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, starting at 12.30pm, pupils from The Grange Senior School will be performing in a lunchtime recital in St John's. They would love to have many from the church family and local community coming to support them.

### **FNL (Pathfinders) Cinema Trip**

FNL is planning to see 'Mary Poppins Returns' on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December in the evening, meeting at the cinema and departing from there also. We would like to invite extended family, friends, and Church Family to join us. The film is classified as a 'U' and screening times will be released shortly.

We are hoping to arrange a group booking or use family discounts, which should benefit everyone. We need to know if you are intending to come, so please tell Nathan how many tickets you require, the ages of those coming, and include a £5 deposit per person **by Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December**, so that he knows exact numbers for the group. Letters will go home from FNL this week, further details will be available by email. Do let Nathan know now if you are interested.

#### **Setting up for Candlelight Services**

Will the candle troopers (volunteers and conscripts) please assemble in church, at 2pm, on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December, for the annual candle mounting ceremony! For more information, please contact Les James.

#### **Baked bean tins needed**

Please can you save small baked bean tins (c220g) and give them to Teresa for a craft activity. She needs about 25. Thank you.

#### **Cloughwood Academy Christmas Special Event**

The boys in the primary class at Cloughwood Academy would like to invite you to join them in the Church Extension on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December, from 9.30am, for mince pies that they are making for us to enjoy! It would be lovely for these boys to meet members of our congregation who can sit and chat with them. There will be a Christmas activity for the boys to make whilst they chat and share the mince pies with you. *Teresa*.

#### **Ladies' Christmas Meal**

Our Ladies' Christmas Meal is on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.15pm for 7.30pm in the Church Centre. Price is £10 for a 2-course meal, and there will be a short Christmas message from Rosemary Charlton after dinner. Flyers with details of the menu options are now available in church. To book your place, please contact Linda Sharps by **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December**. All ladies are very welcome and please invite your friends too.

#### **St John's Café Christmas Special**

Please join us on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 11.45am for our Café Christmas Special. There will be entertainment from Hartford Manor Primary School Choir, carol singing, and Phil Highton will be giving a short Christmas talk. Cost is £5 for adults and all children are free. Menu is a choice of turkey, salmon or vegetarian with all the usual trimmings, followed by Christmas pudding or fruit salad. Please select your meal options and contact Sarah Farmer by **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December**. You can also book by ringing the Church Office.

#### **The Church Christmas card**

... will be on display in the Church Extension during December. We invite you to use it for sending greetings to everyone else in the church family, rather than sending individual cards. Any money saved could then be donated to the church or to missionary organisations. Thank you.

#### **Environmental issues in churches**

Chester Diocese is trying to increase the profile of environmental issues in churches. They have formed a group to discuss what to provide and eventually hope to produce suitable, sensible material for churches to use, and to provide support and ideas. If you have any interest in knowing more or contributing ideas, please speak to David King in the coming weeks.

### **Church Diary – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** *Readings: 2 Chronicles 2, 1 John 2, Nahum 1, Luke 17*

Teresa leading a story & craft session at Old School House Nursery (9.15am)

9.30am-5pm Church Office open in the Church Centre (Monday to Thursday)

9.30am Staff meeting

9.45am Ladies' Walk - meet in the Church Centre car park

12.30pm The Grange Senior School lunchtime recital in St John's

3pm Meeting about Thursday Café in the Church Centre

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December** *Readings: 2 Chronicles 3-4, 1 John 3, Nahum 2, Luke 18*

Teresa leading a story & craft session at Kids Count Nursery (9.30am)

Nathan taking a KS2 assembly at Hartford Primary School (2.45pm)

10am Jigsaw meet in the Church Centre

7.30pm Christmas choir practice in St John's

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> December** *Readings: 2 Chronicles 5:1-6:11, 1 John 4, Nahum 3, Luke 19*

Alec attending a Curacy Tutorial at Church House (12pm)

Phil at Hartford Church of England High School Christian Union (1.05-1.35pm)

Nathan & Jo leading Big Bible Club at Hartford Manor Primary School (3.30pm)

10am Tots and Tinies meet in the Church Centre

2pm Ladies' Fellowship meet in the Church Centre – Christmas Party

8pm Housegroups meet for Christianity Explored Study 7

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December** *Readings: 2 Chronicles 6:12-42, 1 John 5, Habakkuk 1, Luke 20*

Teresa's day off

Mike attending a Church Society Council meeting (all day)

10am Men's Walk - contact David King for meeting point

11.45am Thursday Café in the Church Centre

7.30pm Men's Curry Night at The Indian, Castle

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December** *Readings: 2 Chronicles 7, 2 John, Habakkuk 2, Luke 21*

Alec's day off

Teresa leading a story & craft session at Sir Leslie Martin Nursery (10am)

Ministry team taking Hartford Church of England High School Chapel Services (2.55pm)

6.30am Time to Pray in the Eddowes Room

10am Sir Leslie Martin Nursery Nativity Service in St John's (*Teresa*)

10.30am-3pm Church Office open in the Church Centre

7.30pm Friday Night Live (Pathfinders) meet in the Church Centre

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December** *Readings: 2 Chronicles 8, 3 John, Habakkuk 3, Luke 22*

Mike's and Nathan's day off

3-5pm Koinonia meet for games & mince pies in the Church Centre