



*VISION STATEMENT*

*Committed to Jesus Christ and all to which He calls us.*

**Activities - Week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> November**

<b>Sunday</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> December	10:15am	No Sunday School
<b>(Gift Service- 1<sup>st</sup> Advent)</b>		10.30am	Rev. David Tennant (Communion)
		6.00pm	Rev. David Tennant (Communion)
<b>Monday</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> December		
<b>Tuesday</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> December	7:30pm	Badminton
		7:30pm	Bible Study -Prayer Group
<b>Wednesday</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00am	Mothers and Toddlers
<b>Thursday</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> December	11:00am	Hand of Friendship
<b>Friday</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> December	10:00am	Shoppers Coffee
<b>Saturday</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> December		
<b>Sunday</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> December	10:15am	Sunday School
<b>( 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent)</b>		10:30am	Rev. Dr. Phillip Rees
		6:00pm	Mr. Nigel Stonelake

**Minister - Rev David Tennant**

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## SING A SONG OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas has developed over the years, it has grown and changed, as has its meaning. It is culturally conditioned, and much of the tradition is historical. Where did it all come from? Who knows? Its just there, a mixture of bible, culture, history, myth and folklore, with customs, both national and local and all the special personal and family things we “always “have and do! One of the features of Christmas time is music, from the old songs to classical oratorios and special pieces like Handel’s Messiah. Pop stars old and new bring out new songs for Christmas aiming to be number 1 in the charts. The list is endless. And then there are Christmas carols & hymns sung only at this time of the year. I say “hymns and carols” as there is a difference, and there are Christmas songs in the Bible: the song of Mary, the song of Zachariah, the song of Shepherds and the song of Simeon. You can find them all in Luke’s gospel. On Sunday December 15th I am leading the morning service and I intend to use Luke’s songs. The service will be a bit different from usual and I’ll talk about carols and hymns. Then on December 22nd at 5pm, we’ll have our traditional carol (and hymn!) service.

Mary’s Song the Magnificat is amazing in what it is saying about the Messiah Jesus (Luke 1; 46/55).

Do you know this modern hymn paraphrasing it (by Fred Kaan):

Sing we a song of high revolt;  
Make great the Lord, his name exalt!  
Sing we the song that Mary sang  
Of God at war with human wrong.

Sing we of him who deeply cares,  
And still with us our burden bears.  
He who with strength the proud disowns,  
Brings down the mighty from their thrones.

By him the poor are lifted up;  
He satisfies with bread and cup  
The hungry men of many lands;  
The rich must go with empty hands.

He calls us to revolt and fight  
With him for what is just and right,  
To sing and live Magnificat  
In crowded streets and council flat.

## **TODAY – ADVENT SUNDAY**

Rev David Tennant is here leading our worship at 10.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. Both services will include communion to which all who believe in our Lord Jesus Christ are warmly invited. It's also traditionally our "Gift Sunday" and we say thank you to all who have brought gifts – from children's toys to toiletries. **FAITH IN PRACTICE.** You can rest assured that each item will be much appreciated by the recipients.

## **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

The crib scene is installed once more, the hall has been decorated and the trees are in place. Where lights are involved, they are time switch controlled, so don't panic if you turn lights off and decorations are still alight!

## **REV. RIKKI'S NEW BOOK**

A reminder that Rikki has published a new book "Do this in Remembrance of me". It includes a foreword by Rev Ernest Cruchley who many of you will remember. He reminds readers that Communion is at the heart of Christian worship. The book, which costs £4.50, may well inspire next year's Lent joint discussion programme at St Saviours. Rikki is now taking orders.

## **SATURDAY - HAGLEY OPEN EVENING**

This takes place from 4.00 to 8.00 p.m. Our nativity story "An Unexpected Christmas" is scheduled for 6.15 p.m. **Help on the door and to distribute glow sticks to the children and pens to adults as they leave is still needed,** offers to David Tubb or Martin Heathcock.

Tickets are now on sale – see the posters on the front of the church, on the outreach notice board in the hall and on lamp posts around the village.

## **NEXT SUNDAY – ADVENT 2**

Rev Dr Phillip Rees will be here leading our worship at 10.30 a.m. and Mr Nigel Stonelake the 6.00 p.m. service.

## **LADIES FELLOWSHIP REMINDER CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION.**

Tuesday December 10th at 2.00 pm  
(Please note the time)

## **PRAYER AND STUDY GROUP**

From January the group is planning to meet on Friday afternoon instead of Tuesday evening. The purpose is avoid late evening travel in the darkest and coldest month of the year. Please contact Cath Longden or Alan Dickens if you have any questions.

## **LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES TODAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE SEASON OF ADVENT.**

Advent means "Coming" so in this season we prepare for the coming of Jesus as a baby at Christmas. One of the ways we celebrate the season is by using an Advent Ring and each Sunday lighting the candles to remind us of the gifts Jesus bring to this world.

So we light our first candle, to remind us that Jesus brings God's gift of hope to the world

Child/adult light **ONE** candle and stay by the Advent Ring.

The steward says.....

**We say together from our notice sheet.**

**We light the first candle, the candle of hope. Jesus the hope of the world.**

## **NEW CHURCH WEBSITE**

You may know that the Church has a new website ([www.hagleyfreechurch.org.uk](http://www.hagleyfreechurch.org.uk)).

Stella and Colin would be pleased to have any comments you may have about the contents. We would also be pleased to include any ideas you may have about extra items for inclusion. Please email any comments to [hfc1905@btinternet.com](mailto:hfc1905@btinternet.com)

Or- [cd6@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:cd6@blueyonder.co.uk).

## **DISCUSSIONS**

On Thursday, David led the last of the joint discussions at St Saviour's on the theme of the songs of praise in the New Testament. This time we looked at the well-known passage at the start of John's gospel - The Word made flesh; in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and so on. There has been a fairly steady group of people coming along each week, and we have all got much of value from the sessions.

## **PLEASE PRAY**

For Elaine, Rev. George Graham's widow. We understand she has been diagnosed with terminal cancer.

For God's presence at all services and other meetings taking place on our premises during this Advent season, particularly those bringing in visitors. May all be blessed as they ponder once again the events leading to the birth of our Saviour.

## Flowers

1 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas Arrangement (Joan Dunn)
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Arrangement (Joan Dunn)
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Arrangement (Joan Dunn)

## Stewards

	A.M.	P.M.
<b>VESTRY STEWARDS</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Noreen Higgott	David Tubb
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Jennifer Moss	TBA
15 <sup>th</sup> December	David Tubb	No Service

	AM.	PM.
<b>DOOR STEWARDS</b>		
<b>December</b>	Grace Boothby	Joyce Heathcock
	Brenda Kirton	Mary Heathcock

## Preachers

	AM.	PM.
1 <sup>st</sup> December	Rev. David Tennant	Rev. David Tennant
<b>GIFT SERVICE</b>	(Communion)	(Communion)
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Rev. Dr. Phillip Rees	Mr. Nigel Stonelake
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Rev. David Tennant	No Service