

Welcome!



When the shepherds saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.
(Luke 2:17-18)

(Pictures taken from our Crib scene)



Readings

To review today's readings:

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:15-21

To prepare for next week:

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:10-18, Matthew 2:1-12

We are open

Sundays 10am - 12 noon

10:00 Private prayer

10:30 Service of the Word

10:55 Service of Holy Communion

11:20 Private prayer

12:00 Close

Please join and leave whenever you choose

In our prayers, let us remember:

Colin, who has dementia but is in hospital following a stroke.

Peter Culverhouse (Elizabeth's nephew) who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Sarah Sole, who has been told she has a number of conditions.

Newton House care home (Shireoaks, Nottinghamshire) where

Margaret Lewin's sister works, following a case of covid-19.

Lisa Rogers, who is in need of support and guidance.

Pam Hastings - undergoing ongoing treatment after her operation.

Maurice Saunders, now back home to convalesce following a stroke.

Laurie Ann Lewin, praying for her to regain strength.

Carlda's Dad, Algon (known as Tom) Lewin, with bone cancer.

Margaret Lewin's Mum, Grace Whiteman.

Care homes (our parish boasts many).

The Vicar writes:

Thank you very much for your amazing Christmas gift, which is very generous of you both in itself and in the encouragement which it carries. Thank you.

2020 has offered us a much-needed, albeit very unwelcome, series of parables about Christmas and why Jesus came.

All year - or since March at least - the coronavirus has shone a light on many aspects of us as individuals and as society. Often we have not liked what we see, for example the inequities in our society.

There has been much to reflect on, in the light of our Christian faith, and to pray about. It has often been heart-warming too, to hear of people's response in action.

This reflection is very much in keeping with the real spirit of Advent and also therefore with the foundations of Christmas itself.

In fact knowing the real joy of Christmas depends on it.

One particular parable begins something like this:

The true joy of Christmas may be compared to someone who, being locked down along with everyone else for fear of how covid-19 is spreading, receives the jabs of vaccination together with society as a whole, and knows in the depths of their being the reality of what it is to be released into freedom of body, mind and spirit ...

(Some keywords which relate to Christmas: joy, locked down, fear, receive, know, reality, release, freedom ...)

Here's to 2021!

Food Bank list

The items we most need at the moment are:

Instant mashed potato	Long life fruit juice
Tinned tomatoes	Jars of pasta sauce
Long life milk	Tinned meat
Tinned fruit	Tinned rice pudding/custard
Jars of jam/ honey/ peanut butter/ chocolate spread	
Bags of sugar (especially 500g bags)	
Little chocolate bars and sweet treats	
Packets of jelly or sponge puddings	

Please make sure they are unopened and within the use by date.

The easiest way to get food to us is to pop it in one of the collection points at the local supermarkets in Watford. We currently have collection points in Asda, Sainsbury's and Tesco Extra.

Alternatively, to drop food off at our warehouse call 01923 804435.

Liturgy online from the C of E

The following links take us to Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer, complete with the appropriate readings etc for the day.

Morning prayer: http://daily.commonworship.com/daily.cgi?today_mp=1

Evening prayer: http://daily.commonworship.com/daily.cgi?today_ep=1

Night prayer (Compline)

http://daily.commonworship.com/daily.cgi?today_np=1

Today's reading - Godly Play style

With something to offer people of any age - worth a look! Click on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkpKjYw43pE>

If you would like to **give money online**, here are St Andrew's bank details for direct transfer:

Account Name - St Andrews Church

Account No - 50111169

Sort Code - 089250

Please give a reference: eg General donation, Food bank Kitchen, etc (Your name will appear automatically.)

If you would like to make out a **regular standing order** to St. Andrew's, please use a different account number:

Account Name - St Andrews Church

Account No - 50000102

Sort Code - 089250

Don looks after our standing orders. Please let him know if you set one up or alter an existing one online. Alternatively he has forms for doing these things 'offline'. Phone 01923 497189

A prayer for our care homes

Gracious God, our Father in heaven,
please be close to everyone who lives or works in a care home.
Be with people who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
Give skill, sympathy and resilience
to everyone who cares for residents.
Please strengthen, comfort and heal them all
through your Spirit,
and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**St
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Young families contact - Lift Off! project - go to
www.liftoff.org.uk
or email admin@liftoff.org.uk
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For **See Round**, go to www.stalbans.anglican.org/news/seeround