



**St Mary Magdalen
Church of England,
Knighton**



**Newsletter for Sunday
18th December 2022
4th Sunday of Advent**

Collect for this week

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.

Amen.



DIARY FOR THE WEEK

Sunday 18th December <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	9.00am Weekly Eucharist 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Eucharist at St Guthlacs 6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols
Monday 19th December	7.00pm Bell ringing practice
Tuesday 20th December	9.30am Holy Communion (St Mary's) 7.30pm Advent Meditation 'Love' - at St Guthlac's
Wednesday 21st December	7.30pm Nine Lessons & Carols, St Guthlacs
Thursday 22nd December	9.30 am Holy Communion (St Guthlac) 1-3pm Smart meter installation in St M
Friday 23rd December	7.00pm Choir Practice
Saturday 24th December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	4.00pm Carols at the Crib 11.30pm Midnight Communion
Sunday 25th December <i>Christmas Day</i>	9.00am Christmas Eucharist (trad) 10.30am Christmas Celebration for All followed by short communion for those who wish to stay 10.30am Eucharist at St Guthlacs

Sunday Club, for children at primary school, meets during the 10.30am service on both the second and third Sundays of each month. Everyone is welcome even if it's your first time here! Just ask one of the Welcome Team to point out our leaders, and then say hello :)

On the first Sunday we all stay together for All Age Worship, and on the fourth Sunday why not join us at 10.30 for the relaxed, cafe- style Church Club at St Guthlac's, Holbrook Road?

Sunday Club over Christmas and New Year: please note that Sunday Club takes a break on 25th December and 1st January - back to normal on 8th January!

Listening to God's Word

Our Bible reading for **Sunday 18th December** is:

Isaiah 7.10-16 and Matthew 1.18-25

Church Family News

Grateful thanks to Sunday Club leader now stepping down: After many years of faithful service to our children and young people, one of our Sunday Club leaders is stepping down from their role at the end of this year. Teresa Bowdry has formed a key part of the team that has nurtured faith in our children over thirty years, and we are so grateful to her for her willing service and dedication in this important task. We'll be thanking Teresa in our service this Sunday, and at the same time remembering the commitment of Judi Stone as previous leader of the Sunday Club team - because of her illness we never really had an adequate opportunity to thank Judi publically before she died, but many of you will know that her contribution, to this and many other areas of church life, was hugely significant. We are so grateful to God for both these leaders, and all those who have supported our children and young people over the years, and we wish Teresa all the best now.

The team is currently led by Alison Roche and we would welcome extra volunteers stepping up to help as either an occasional 'helper' or as a more regular leader. Do have a chat to one of us if this is something you can offer.

Adrian & Alison

A huge 'thank you!' to everyone who worked so hard to make our Christmas Tree Festival last weekend such a success once more. I am very grateful to Sue Holligan and all the team who worked on preparations, and to the very many of you who volunteered over the weekend in so many ways. The Christmas Tree Festival is already a cherished part of many people's celebrations and provides such a boost in challenging times - at it's heart is the message of Jesus to 'love your neighbour'. It also serves to strengthen our church connections with the local community, builds goodwill and relationships, and raises money for charity. If you enjoyed this year, perhaps you could help out in some way in 2023! *Adrian*

Thanks The Christmas Tree Festival team would like to thank everyone for their generosity and help this year in making the weekend a great community success. We had so many positive comments made by visitors about the welcome they received and the memories they had of attending St Mary's – with a number asking about the times of the Christmas services. Thank you once again to all contributors to the raffle prize baskets, the people/ organisations who displayed a tree and all who gave up their valuable time to help in various ways and areas. What a busy weekend.

Thank you, from the Knighton Christmas Tree Festival Team.

ADVANCE NOTICE - SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY 2023 Please note that on New Year's Day, the first Sunday of January, there will be only **one** service in the benefice. This will be a Communion service at St Guthlac's, starting at 10.30am as usual. Please make a note in your diaries now! Many apologies for any inconvenience. Also, please note that there will be no midweek Communion Service on **Tuesday 27th December** or **Tuesday 3rd January**.

Service of Prayer for Healing, with Holy Communion: please note that won't be a Healing Service on Friday 30th December. The next will be on **Friday 27th January**, 11am as usual.

Christmas Cards: As usual, we have a section of the notice board at the back of the church for your Christmas Cards to everyone. If you can, please make a donation to Christian Aid or the Children's Society at the same time.

Christingle for the Children's Society: Many thanks for all your donations to the Children's Society, made at last week's Christingle Service. If you didn't have the chance to donate then please use one of the envelopes at the back of the church, and simply drop it into the collection plate. You may like to take a free collecting box for your loose

change over the coming year as well.

Andrew & Carolyn in Market Harborough, wish all of our church family a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Reports, announcements, reminiscences, musings ...

There's room for all of these and more in the Benefice Magazine. Your fellow readers want to hear from you, so why not contribute now?

The next issue comes out in mid-January. Send your contributions to stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com, ideally by 4 January.

Nigel Siesage

Good news! Our new Warm Room :

Thanks to the valiant efforts of our decorating team we are nearly ready to open the Cottage Room (small lounge) in the Parish Centre, as a Warm Room. This is a space for those feeling the cold and the pinch financially, but also for everyone who would like a cuppa and a chat. BUT ...we need volunteer helpers who will staff the room, receive our visitors and give them a warm welcome. If you could help with volunteering for a couple of hours each week then please do let me know.



We would like to open on Thursday afternoons in the first instance, but if we have offers for other times too then we can extend our hours! Thank you in anticipation. *Adrian*



Please help others in need this Christmas: We are all experiencing challenges this winter, but some families are really struggling in this 'cost of living crisis'. Would you please consider helping others who are in need in our own city by responding to our Christmas Appeal this year? We are collecting for the Leicester South Foodbank and they have an urgent need for items on this list:

- **TINNED BLACK BEANS 400G**
- **TINNED LENTILS 400G**
- **TINNED CHICK PEAS 400G**
- **1Ltr UHT JUICE**
- **TINNED FRUIT 400G**
- **TINNED POTATOES**
- **RICE 1KG**
- **CURRY SAUCE**
- **TINNED SWEETCORN**
- **TINNED TOMATOES 400G**
- **TINNED MEAT**
- **RICE PUDDING 400G**
- **CUSTARD**
- **TOOTH BRUSHES**
- **TOOTHPASTE**
- **ROLL ON DEODORANT**
- **WASHING UP LIQUID**
- **SHAMPOO**
- **CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE SELECTION PACKS (NO LARGER THAN 250G)**

Please help out by bringing your donations to church THIS SUNDAY 18th DECEMBER so that we can get them to the foodbank before Christmas (please leave them in a carrier bag if possible). There will be a collection point at the back of the church. Thank you so much. *Adrian*

Christmas 2022 at St Mary's

Traditional *Nine Lessons and Carols*: Sunday 18th December 6.30pm.

A traditional service celebrating the birth of Jesus - Bible readings interspersed with Christmas carols and choral music, led by the St Mary's choir.

Crib Service & Carols: Saturday 24th December, 4pm.

An informal service for all the family in which we place the crib figures in the stable as the Christmas story is retold in words and mime by children and young people – come dressed as your favourite nativity character and join in!

Midnight Communion: Saturday 24th December, 11.30pm. A service of Holy Communion and Carols to take us into Christmas Day.

Christmas Day: Sunday 25th December, 9am.

A quiet start to Christmas Day with Holy Communion using traditional language.

Christmas Day All Age Worship and Communion:

Sunday 25th December, 10.30am. Join us to celebrate Christmas Day with a service for everyone, including a short **Holy Communion** for those who wish to stay on.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION sends grateful thanks for the very generous collection from St Mary's Church (despite missing tin) of **£477.97**.



"Do not be afraid!" : Our theme during Advent and Christmas this year has been the message of the angels in the gospel accounts of the birth of Christ - "Do not be afraid!" In the newsletter today you'll find a colouring page highlighting the four times that the message occurs - do please use this at home to create your own design or mini-poster, to remind you of this important Christmas proclamation. You might like to put it up in the kitchen or by your bed, for instance, as a regular word to you from God each day. If you'd like an A4 sized copy then please do take one from the table near the font at the back of the church. *Adrian*

Online Compline on Wednesdays—8.00pm

There will be no Compline next week (21st) but we will meet online as usual on Wednesday 28th December.

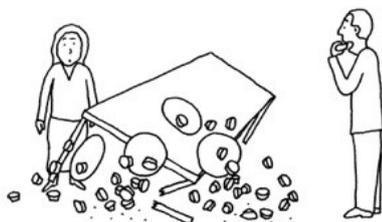
Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81118183080>

Meeting ID: 811 1818 3080

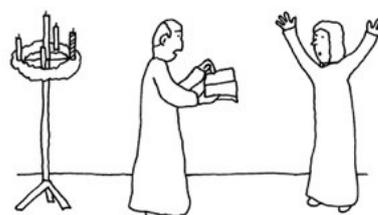
Dial by your location **0203 481 5240**

ADVENT

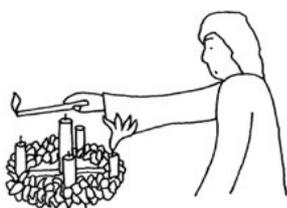
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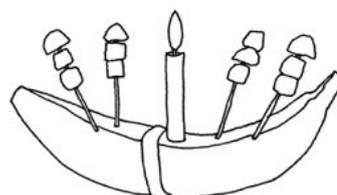
TABLES BUCKLING UNDER SHEER
WEIGHT OF MINCE PIES



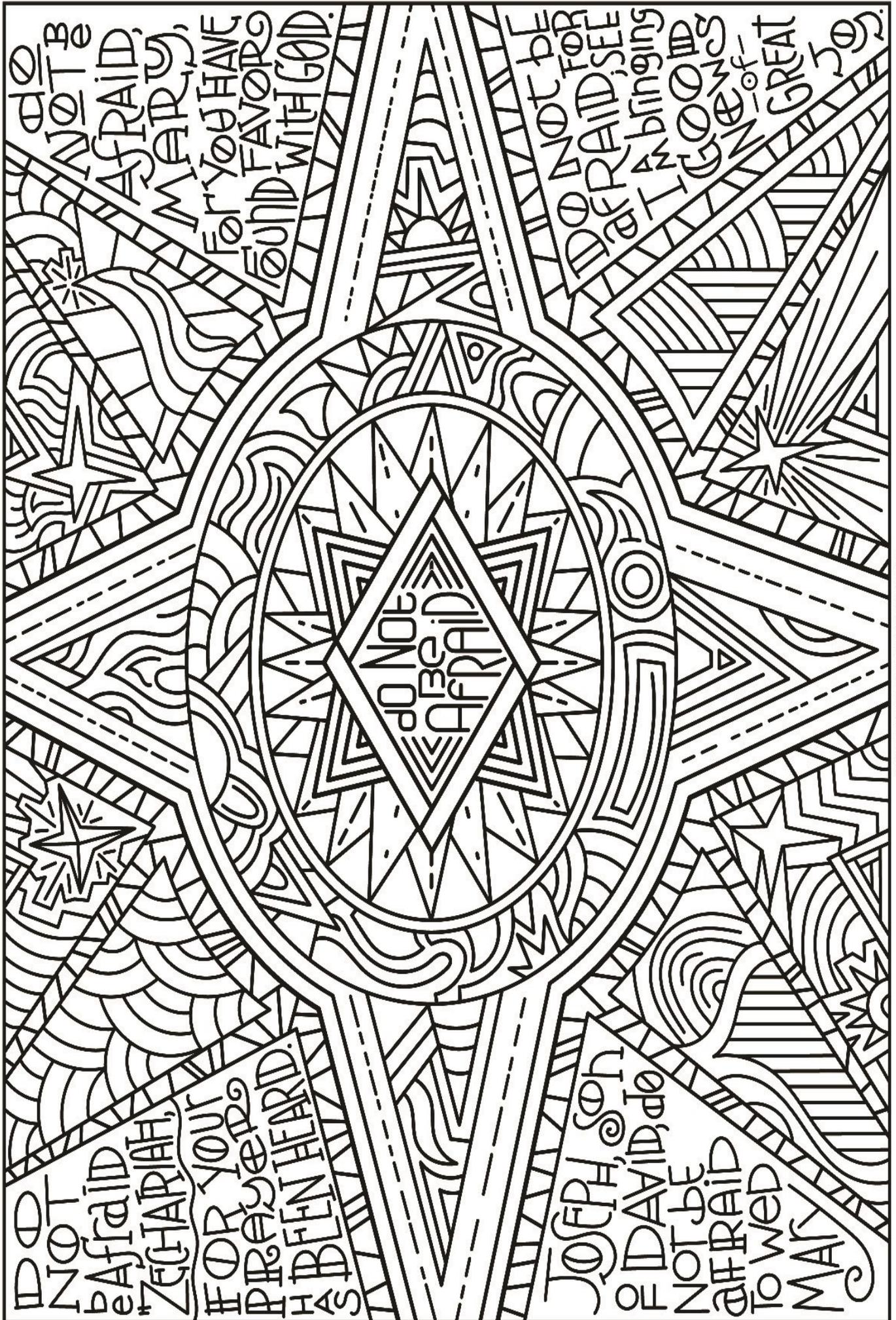
UNREST OVER THE CORRECT WEEK
TO LIGHT THE PINK CANDLE



ADVENT WREATH FIRES



SUPERMARKETS RUNNING OUT
OF ORANGES



Christian Aid Christmas Appeal—a message from Christian Aid:

“The excitement and pleasure of Christmas dinner is one of our most cherished traditions...

In Malawi, it's something that families - like Fyness' - cherish too. But hunger has grown, due to the climate crisis. Sadly, many families will have little or nothing left to eat this Christmas. Hotter temperatures, drought, destructive downpours and floods are playing havoc with the growing seasons, causing food shortages. This year, many will struggle even to have their staple food of maize porridge. As Fyness tends to her bountiful garden, she remembers what a Christmas with no food is like. 'In the past, I was lacking food. I struggled to find food,' she says. Now, she's able to share the festive joy of a plate piled high; of plates filled with delicious chicken and rice as the special, once-a-year meal.

Your gift could enable someone like Fyness to grow food in ways that are more resilient to climate change. So please, reach out and share the greatest Christmas tradition of all – love.”

Envelopes will be available in church over the Christmas period. If possible, please Gift Aid your donation – it will add another 25% to your gift. Many thanks, *Eileen*

Christmas Gifts that help a Good Cause: if you are searching for a special Christmas gift that doesn't add to the mountains of 'stuff' that we already have, and that helps other people at the same time, then you might like to consider the 'alternative' or 'virtual' gifts that are available from a range of charities and good causes.

Ripple Effect is the new name for 'Send a Cow', a charity that St Mary's has previously supported through a Lent Lunch. This year they are offering an imaginative garden twinning plan, that links a UK garden with a family and their plot on Africa:

https://rippleeffect.org/get-involved/individual/garden-twinning/?utm_source=sendinblue&utm_campaign=garden_twinning_22&utm_medium=email

Contact details:

Vicar: Adrian Jones 0116 270 4268 or 07919 262399
Email: adrian.jones@zoho.com (rest day normally Friday)

Ordinand: Cecilia Adjadje 07425 705221
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Revd Janet Gasper 0116 288 9646
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Churchwarden: Beryl Bonfield 0116 2702202
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Parish Administrator: James Gutteridge 0116 270 2705
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PLANNED GIVING SCHEME

Regular giving is an integral part of our church life supporting our day to day costs, ministry and mission. A good way to achieve this is through a monthly bank standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. Scheme details can be obtained from Lorna Pollard, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: email: stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com or phone 01162704272. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%. Cheques to **Knighthon PCC** please.

Prayers for this week

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

(Colossians 4.2)

Praying for the world: Please pray for the protection of Christians around the world, and in particular for those who live in places where they are persecuted or experience hardship because of their faith. Pray that, in this season of Advent and Christmas, they will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and that fear will be banished by hope, peace, love and joy. Pray that they will be encouraged by knowing they are part of one global Christian family.

Praying for the Church: Please pray that this will be a time when churches everywhere welcome friends and strangers alike, and that good friendships will be formed now that encourage many people to explore more about Jesus and the Christian faith in the year to come.

Praying for the Parish: Please pray for the peace and well-being of all those who live on **Craighill Road, Craighill Walk, Milford Road, Welford Road, Houlditch Road.**

Praying for those in need: Please pray for all those who are in need at the moment, those who are unwell in body, mind or spirit, and those who are anxious and worried. In particular please pray this week for **Doreen Macafee, Ann Beams, Diane Stockton, Keith Gutteridge, John Orme and Peter Relph.**

Pray as well for all those on our parish *‘Continuing Prayer’* list, that they may know the power of God's healing love at work in their lives today. Also, give thanks for those who are recovering and who know God's peace.

Please remember in your prayers the families and friends of all those who have died recently, and in particular **Joan Lumb.** Remember too, all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.