

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28th 2021
ADVENT

Today

10.00am **Junior Church** in the hall.

Parish Communion led **Revd. Kate Stowe**

Sermon: **Diane Reeves**

Hymns: 45 ~ O come, O come Emmanuel

41 ~ Lo He comes

Anthem: **Panis Angelicus** ~ *Franck*

6.30pm Advent Carol Service led by **Revd. Charlotte Gibson**

Prayer as the Advent wreath is lit:

Heavenly Father, you have created a universe of light: forgive us when we return to darkness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world: cleanse and heal our blinded sight.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you give us light in our hearts: renew us in faith and love.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

First Reading

Jeremiah 33.14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Second Reading

Luke 21.25-36

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a

trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

Post Communion Prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

If you have a prayer request, please email the Prayer Team on prayer@stpeterharborne.org.uk.

All requests are confidential.



Zoom coffee with Kate. If anyone fancies a chat with Kate on Zoom over a coffee, drop her an email and she'll be pleased to set up a time: revdkate@gmail.com.

Charlotte is also available for a chat on

curate@st.peterharborne.org.uk or 0121 454 9929.

RIP:

Roger Matthews Sean Bailey Marlene Parsons

The funeral Service of the late Revd. Canon Marlene Parsons will be held at St. Peter's Church at 11.45am on Friday December 3rd. If you intend to come to this service, please advise the Parish office by Tuesday November 30th at the latest. Following the service, refreshments will be served in the church hall. Thank you.

SERVICES FOR NEXT WEEK

Wednesday December 1st

10.00am **Holy Communion** with **Revd. Chris Butt**

Friday December 3rd

7.00pm Zoom **Night Prayer** led by **Keith Whitehead**

Sunday December 5th- 2nd of **Advent**

10.00am **Junior Church** in the hall.

Parish Communion led by **Revd. Kate Stowe** and **Revd. Chris Butt** preaching.

6.30pm **Evening Prayer** led by **Pete Brayshaw**

Courses and Advent Study

ADVENT LECTIO

Lectio Divina is a contemplative way of reading the Bible. It dates back to the early centuries of the Christian Church and is a way of praying the scriptures that leads us deeper into God's word. Revd Kate will be offering 4 Lectio sessions as we journey through Advent together. During each session we will read the Gospel for the coming Sunday in a contemplative and prayerful way, seeking to be attentive to what God is saying to us through it. There will also be a time for discussion about the passage and how it has struck each of us. The sessions will take place on Zoom at 7.30pm on **Wednesday** evenings: **1 December, 8 December, 15 December**, and will last for an hour. Please ask Revd Kate or the Parish Office for the joining details.

Looking and Longing

Rekindling the spirit of Advent

Rev. Chris Butt will be leading this series on Zoom in the comfort of our own homes. Sessions will start at 10.30am on Monday mornings for coffee and chat time, with Readings, Reflections and Prayer from 11.00 – 11.30am.

Monday 29th November	Finding and Seeing
Monday 6th December	Worshipping and Obeying
Monday 13th December	Obeying and Living
Monday 10th January	Living and Sharing

All are welcome!

More information from Chris Butt 07720865653/
revbutt@gmail.com

Away in a Manger? An Advent Event

We'd like to invite you to an event on **Saturday 4th December at 7pm** in St. Peter's church hall at which we will be looking at the various traditions around the Christmas story and where they come from. There will be refreshments and a lot of fun. You do need to book with Jo in the parish office – there are publicity cards for the event at the back of church. If you would like to help run the event in anyway (setting up, serving refreshments etc) then do let Charlotte know (curate@stpeterharborne.org). This will be a really fun and theological way of getting in the festive mood and learning something new!

Dates for your diary:

Sunday December 12 th at 4.00pm	~ Christingle
Sunday 19 th December 10.00am	Junior Church Nativity Play 6.30pm Nine lessons & Carols
Sunday 24 th December 3.00-4.00pm	Visit the Crib 10.30pm ~ Carols on the Green 11.15pm ~ Midnight Mass
Saturday 25 th December 10.00am	Family Eucharist

Worship at St. Peter's

Current arrangements following the latest government lifting of Covid restrictions

- **Booking** is technically **no longer required**.
- **Safe distancing** is in place by seating congregation in alternate pews; the limit on numbers in church has been increased to accommodate more people and the side pews will be offered for anyone wishing to sit alone/ more distanced.
- The **one-way system** around the church will no longer be marked with signs, but people are encouraged to keep to the same pattern of movement to avoid close contact with others.
- The **wearing of face masks** will no longer be required but people are encouraged to use them. A small supply will continue to be available upon entry to church.
- **Congregational singing** will be allowed wearing face masks, and hymn books will be provided.



We have available a selection of St. Peter's Christmas cards designed and produced in house, showcasing both the message of Christmas and our beautiful church. Too good to miss and not share with relatives and friends far and near, each design bringing with them, a little piece of Harborne. We also have a 2022 calendar hot off the press; again designed and produced in house. Every family needs and uses them, and how lovely that ours will greet us each month with pictures of the natural world, all supplied by our Junior Church children and adults alike. You won't find them anywhere else, so put in your orders now and don't forget, they make great presents too! 😊
Order forms are available at the back of church.



Greener at St. Peter's

This month we are focussing on single-use plastics.

Do read Jo Stubbs' excellent article in the November magazine, which has lots of ideas for how we can reduce our reliance on them.



Instead of buying more and more toys for the children, why not subscribe to a toy swap website such as www.whirli.com? Children can quickly become bored and you can soon end up with a house full of unwanted toys.

As long as they're getting a new toy, children aren't really all that bothered about where it has come from.

Christmas is coming: December's magazine has some top tips for a greener Christmas.

Churches for Climate Action: Meeting with Preet Gill MP, 25th November. We were delighted at how interested and engaged our local Churches are, with over 15 different Churches represented; Catholic, Baptist and Quaker as well as many Anglican. Preet spoke knowledgeably and passionately about the need for greater action, and was supportive of our aims. A local ecumenical group has been established which will continue to meet to develop ways of working together locally for climate action, for example around community engagement and shared projects. Preet will provide support and connections where appropriate. So, watch this space!

Our St Peter's Carbon Footprints: Have you sent your score yet to greener@stpeterharborne.org.uk. Here's the World Wildlife Fund link <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>. The score is a percentage, showing how close you are to target CO2 reduction levels.

We are hoping that everyone will join in. Our target is for 100 of us to work out our carbon footprint, and we're nearly 20% of the way.

Target: 100 people
Reported: 18 people

