



St. Mary Magdalene Church, Longfield
Part of the Rural North West Kent Group of Churches

NOTICES FOR WEEK COMMENCING 2nd DECEMBER 2018 – ADVENT SUNDAY

RNWK Group Clergy: Revd. Dylan Turner, Revd. Jim Fletcher, Revd. Helen Reeves, Revd. Elizabeth Robertson

Sunday 2nd December 2018 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) Service at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Ash
9.00 am Morning Worship Service at St. Peter's Church, Ridley
9.00 am Holy Communion Service at All Saints' Church Hartley
10.30 am Holy Communion Service at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Longfield
10.30 am Family Service at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Ash
10.30 am Family Service at Fawkham and Hartley Church Centre

Sunday 9th December 2018 8.00 am Morning Prayer Service at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Ash
8.00 am Mattins (BCP) at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Longfield
9.00 am Morning Worship Service at St. Peter's Church, Ridley
9.00 am Morning Worship Service at All Saints' Church, Hartley
10.30 am Morning Worship Service at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Longfield
10.30 am Holy Communion Service at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Ash
10.30 am Holy Communion Service at The Fawkham and Hartley Church Centre
4.00 pm Christingle Service at St. Mary's Church, Fawkham

(Please note that tea and coffee will be available in the Jubilee Hall after most of our services, please feel free to join us)

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING WEDNESDAY 5TH DECEMBER AT FAWKHAM AND HARTLEY CHURCH CENTRE If you missed the course last week and can attend this one please just turn up at 8pm to complete your C0 Safeguarding Training. Thank you to those who attended last week.

THE BIG ADVENT COFFEE MORNING – This will take place on **Saturday, 1st December 10 am to noon**. There will be raffle tickets for pre-sale available in the church. Any contributions to the raffle and gift stall will be gratefully received. Many thanks, Wendy and Susan.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS Please can everyone take a road or two to deliver so that we can send our greetings and service times to each house in the parish. Card sorted into roads are available from church.

COMMISSIONING OF THE NEW AREA DEAN We hope you are all able to come to the Commissioning on 2 December and pray with Elizabeth and myself as we take on this shared role. You are all warmly invited to the commissioning of The Revd. Canon Alyson Davie to be the next Area Dean for Cobham Deanery, and Revd. Elizabeth Robertson as Assistant Area Dean for Cobham Deanery by the Archdeacon of Rochester: The Ven. Andrew Wooding Jones on Advent **Sunday 2 December** 2018 at 6pm at St. John's Church, Meopham, We will Worship, pray and have refreshments together as Cobham Deanery.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARD – The 2018 church Christmas card will be out this week for anyone to sign and donate money to charity, which is usually Demelza House. Thank you.

RNWK ADVENT BIBLE STUDIES 'ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY': Mondays 3rd, 10th & 17th December Anne Philpott and Lawrie Townson will be leading an Advent Bible Study Group, meeting at 8pm at the Jubilee Hall at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Longfield reflecting on Angels, Shepherds and Magi. A glass of wine, nibbles, and a warm welcome await all!

YARN AND YAP – This will be on **Friday the 7th December** starting at 12.30 and finishing at 2.30pm. Coffee and Tea provided.

RNWK YOUTH GROUP- meets on **Sunday 9th December**, 7pm at Jubilee Hall, St. Mary Magdalene, Longfield

MESSY NATIVITY – Our Messy Nativity is on **Sunday 16th December**, 10.30am at Fawkham and Hartley Church Centre — please come and join us. There is also a Facebook group to follow which is at: <https://m.facebook.com/RNWKmessychurch/>

ASH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 15th and 16th December at Ash Church. Enter a decorated tree in with the chance to win one of two prizes. HAVE A GO! Contact Ian Nurdin at Ash for details

CAROL SINGING IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE Friday 21st December Coach leaves New Ash Green 1pm—Contact Ian Nurdin at Ash Parish or Marion in the Parish Office 704972.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES - Could all box holders please bring them to church for Liz Gale or let her know and she will collect them. Thank you.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM - If anyone would like to be a part of this ministry through prayer or visiting could they let either Steph, Wendy or Val know and speak to us for more information.

TESS - A very big thank you to all those from St. Mary Magdalene who came to Hextable to support my Christmas sale in aid of TESS (Teso Educational Support Services) which provides educational sponsorship, mainly for girls and orphans, in a very poor part of NE Uganda. By your kind donations and purchases you have helped me raise **£1,868** – so far! If you haven't been able to make it there's still time to come and support my sale – just give me a ring on 01322 664086 to check I'm at home. I'd be delighted to see you! You are changing lives! Anne Philpott

SIDESMEN, SOUND AND READING - Sunday 2nd December service: For the 10.30pm Holy Communion service the side-people will be Val Choules and Marion Stubbs, the reader will be Susan Rogers with prayers by Wendy Smith, sound by Peter Garrod.

Sunday 9th December services: For the 08.00am service the sides person and reader will be Sylvia Partridge. For the 10.30 am service, prayers by Stephanie Perfitt, reader will be Marion Asplin, sides people will be Hilary and Bob Patten and sound by Peter Darvill. Thank you to everyone for your time and assistance.

If you have anything to add to the notices for next week, please contact: Alan Strachan on 01474 704602 or at a.m.strachan@btinternet.com Parish website: www.longfieldchurch.org Twitter: @RNWK_Group



CALLED TOGETHER FOR A NEW VISION

Don't forget to pray this week in church for your 5 people who you want to come to faith in Christ. Make a concerted effort this Sunday to pray for YOUR 5 in faith!

'CALLED TOGETHER' - WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO FOR YOUR T FOR 2-500 PLUS CHALLENGE? - 'CALLED TOGETHER'

WE HAVE SO FAR REACHED OUT AS A GROUP TO 305 PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR OUR T FOR 2-500 PLUS CHALLENGE, WE STILL HAVE 195 PEOPLE TO REACH BEFORE NEXT SUMMER. WHAT'S YOUR CHALLENGE? PLEASE LET THE MINISTRY TEAM KNOW, WE ARE CALLED TOGETHER, TO WORK TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

Just a thought!

Few statements carry as much emotion as 'Honey I think we are pregnant', especially for those who have almost given up after years of disappointment and false hopes. So we can imagine the response of one couple, the biblical Abraham and Sarah, who against all odds not only become pregnant, but models of faith in the process.

It's both a cliché and an understatement to say that God is a God of surprises, but it's true. Theologian and novelist Frederick Buechner goes further and says that while we easily see tragedy of the stories of scripture, we must also see their comedy, when, as he says, "What shouldn't happen, what couldn't possibly happen . . . happens!"— like the resurrection, like the ne'er-do-well son welcomed home again, like the birth of Abraham and Sarah's son Isaac, whose name means "Son of Laughter". Advent should leave our faces streaked with tears of laughter at ourselves for thinking we had figured God out!

But Abraham and Sarah are Advent pillars not only because grace broke into their lives, but also because they trusted the God who made the promise. Saint Paul considers Abraham to be our Father in faith not because of any qualifying deeds, but because he trusted that the promises of God would be fulfilled. We find God in surprising moments of grace, and we also find God in the experiences that call for patient waiting and trust.

Waiting is not the strong suit of many of us in our hurry-up culture. Everything is urgent. Hope is foreign to people who expect quick relief, cures, and solutions. We struggle to guard Advent jealously because popular culture short-circuits this season of hope: We are tempted to go directly to celebrating Christmas without getting in touch with the part of ourselves that is longing, hoping, and trusting.

Waiting is also difficult because we're forced to admit that we are not in control—God is.

For all their drama, the words "Honey, we're pregnant," uttered by an amazed, teenaged Mary to an equally confounded Joseph, indicate not the joy of birth—not quite yet—but the amazing surprise of love, and the beginning of a season of waiting, when God-is-with-us.

Just a thought.....

