

MESSENGER

SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2022

Lots going on in December – are we missing anything?

Please send me your news, thoughts, messages, helpful suggestions, requests etc. by Wednesday lunchtime. Either by phone on 01295 711516 or email clairewilks@hotmail.co.uk



Services

Sunday 11th December

8.15am Holy Communion at Sulgrave
9.30am Family Christmas at Marston St Lawrence
10.30am Holy Communion at Middleton Cheney
3.00pm **Carol Service** at Chacombe
3.00pm **Carol Service** at Warkworth

Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th December

10am Holy Communion Middleton Cheney

Sunday 18th December

10.45am Sung Mass at Marston St Lawrence
3.00pm **Carols** at Thenford
3.00pm **Carols by Candlelight** at Sulgrave
6.00pm **Carols in the Churchyard** at Middleton Ch.
6.00pm **Nine Lessons and Carols** at Greatworth



Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Gifts – 2022

We are delighted to announce that:-
124 gift-filled shoe boxes have been collected this year! I have attached a letter from Mary Phipps giving all the details. **WELL DONE EVERYONE!**

Wednesdays at All Saints

The church will be open every Wednesday from
10am until 4pm

10 – 10.30am Short Communion service

10.30am – 12.30pm **Jolly Teapot!**

A chance to chat over coffee/tea, cakes and biscuits

2–3pm during term time **First Steps**

Stories, songs and craft and refreshment for babies, toddlers and their carers but all are welcome.

Outside these times the church will be open and there will be refreshments available.

This week in the Benefice

Chacombe Christmas Fayre

Saturday 10th December 10am – 12.30pm

* **Bring and Buy** * **Raffle** * **Home-made food** *
* **Children's Tombola** * **Christmas Wreath Festival** *

The School Choir will be singing at 11am

Carol Concert at All Saints

Sunday 11th December at 4.00pm

MC Singers with MC Handbells

Carol Service at Warkworth

At 3pm on Sunday the 11th of December.

Carols in the Pub

Wednesday 14th December at 7.30pm
at The Three Conies, Thorpe Mandeville

In **Sulgrave** 'Advent Windows' will be unveiled every evening during December at 6.30pm

Christmas weekend in the Benefice

24th December

Crib Service at Middleton Cheney at 3.00pm
and Chacombe at 5.00pm

Carol Service at Thorpe Mandeville at 6pm

Midnight Mass at 11.30pm at
Chacombe, Marston St Lawrence and
Sulgrave

25th December

9.30am **Christmas Communion** at
Middleton Cheney and Greatworth

And at 11.00am at
Thorpe Mandeville and Thenford

Rector: Nick Leggett 07925 419068

Email: leggett1uwe@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.allsaints-mc.church

For those who worship at home

Third Sunday of Advent

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad. The desert shall rejoice and blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord and Majesty of our God. **Isaiah 35 v 1&2.**

Hymns Old and New No: 172 God is working His Purpose Out

God is working his purpose out
as year succeeds to year:
God is working his purpose out,
and the time is drawing near;
nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God
as the waters cover the sea.

March we forth in the strength of God,
with the banner of Christ unfurled,
that the light of the glorious gospel of truth
may shine throughout the world:
fight we the fight with sorrow and sin
to set their captives free,
that the earth may be filled

From utmost east to utmost west,
where'er the church has gone,
by the mouth of many messengers
the call of God has come:
Give ear to me, you continents;
you isles, give ear to me,
that the earth may be filled

All we can do is done in vain
unless God blesses the deed;
vainly we hope for the harvesttide
'til God gives life to the seed;
yet nearer and nearer draws the time,
the time that shall surely be,
when the earth shall be filled

Reflection:

A few years ago, I was on a short pilgrimage with a group of friends. We took as our theme Growth.

All life begins with a seed which then grows through a stem which transports food water and other elements for life to flourish which then gives incentive to fulfil the potential of the branches, leaves, flowers, fruit to work together to not only produce seed which prolongs the potential but to shelter and feed so much of creation.

It develops branches which support leaves, flowers and fruit, holding them up to the light, the pollinators and dispersers transporting water, housing the hormone and nutrients housing the special cells from which new growth is generated.

I love the idea of God being the stem or even the Tree Trunk

Imagine the mighty Oak with abundant potential for life running up to feed the Branches from which emerge the leaves which nurture the plant and give shade to many creatures.

We must not forget the fungi which not only break down the soil for other creatures to digest but we are told also communicate between trees travelling vast distances to keep the community together.

The whole of creation working together in the strength of your love to create a World which thrives with abundance of life where we can live in harmony with the whole of nature and all people.

Prayer

Almighty God, Purify our hearts and minds,
that when Your Son Jesus Christ comes again as Judge and Saviour
we may be ready to receive Him who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**