

# MESSENGER

SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022

A very Happy and Peaceful Christmas to all our readers.

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](mailto:clairewilks@hotmail.co.uk)



## Services

### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 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

### Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

10am Holy Communion Middleton Cheney

### Christmas Eve - 24<sup>th</sup> December

**Crib Service** at Middleton Cheney at 3.00pm

**Crib Service** at Chacombe at 5.00pm

**Carol Service** at Thorpe Mandeville at 6pm

**Midnight Mass** at 11.30pm at

Chacombe, Marston St Lawrence and Sulgrave

### Christmas Day

**Christmas Communion at 9.30am**

Middleton Cheney and Greatworth

**Christmas Communion at 11.00am**

Thorpe Mandeville and Thenford



## Wednesdays at All Saints

The church will be open on

Wednesdays 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

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

*The church will remain open for refreshment until 4pm*

Wishing a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2023 to all our friends across the Chenderit benefice  
*from Rev Eddie and Jenny Smith*

In Sulgrave the 'Advent Windows' will be continue to be unveiled each evening until 24<sup>th</sup> December



## Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Gifts – 2022

We are delighted to announce that:-

**124 gift-filled shoe boxes were collected this year!**

This follows the 2 'Wrap & Fill / Drop Off' coffee mornings held at All Saints Church and with the wonderful support of our local community, including Foxhall Court, Henry's Café and our Co-op village store as drop-off points.

The Coffee and Cake Mornings held during the 'Wrap & Fill' sessions were enjoyed by all who visited and vital funds were raised at them to pay towards the distribution costs of £5.00 per box. Over £479 has been donated to Samaritan's Purse to help pay costs (in addition to cash, cheques and online payments made by individuals to cover costs for sending their boxes).

2/3 of our shoeboxes this year will go to children in the Ukraine. The rest are due to go to Central Asia, Middle East & West Africa. Children who receive them children will be delighted with their gifts and know they are remembered this Christmas.

*A grand total of 3176 gift filled shoe boxes have been sent to needy children during the 19 years our church and the local community have supported this appeal!*

**Let's get ready for next year!**

**Please keep collecting throughout the year.**

We need lots of quality new: fun toys, toiletries (NO liquids, toothpaste or sweets), small soft toys, school supplies and empty shoe boxes (12" x 7" x 5" ideal size). If possible please wrap the boxes and lids at home as it saves lots of time for filling them!

**Details are online at [samaritans-purse.org/occ](http://samaritans-purse.org/occ), or contact Mary Phipps 07522 807 146.**

**Rector: Nick Leggett 07925 419068**

Email: [leggett1uwe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:leggett1uwe@yahoo.co.uk)

Website: [www.allsaints-mc.church](http://www.allsaints-mc.church)

## For those who worship at home

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign; the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

*Isaiah. Ch. 7. Vs. 10 – 14.*

### Hymn - Wait for the Lord (no 528)

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.*

*Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart!*

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|---|---|
| 1. Prepare the way for the Lord.<br>Make a straight path for him. | 6. Joy and gladness for all<br>Who seek the Lord        |
| 2. The Glory of the Lord<br>Shall be revealed                     | 7. I waited for the Lord:<br>He heard my cry.           |
| 3. All the earth will see the Lord.                               | 8. Our eyes are fixed<br>on the Lord our God            |
| 4. Rejoice in the Lord always:<br>He is at hand.                  | 9. O Lord, show us your way.<br>Guide us in your truth. |
| 5. Seek first the kingdom of God,<br>Seek and you shall find.     | 10. Prepare the way of the Lord.                        |

### Thought for today.

If I take one word from Isaiah it is ‘Patience’.

In our every-day lives our patience is constantly tried; perhaps waiting in a shop or a traffic queue, or on the ‘phone, (“please wait, we are trying to connect you.”) Maybe attempting repeatedly to perform a task which should be easy; and often when someone says, “*I won’t be a minute...*” It is a fast-moving world where we are always expecting something today.

In Advent we are anticipating God’s great gift to us; and with the hindsight of 2000 years, we know what it is; His Son. In our lives we wait for his revelation to us. Probably, if we are truthful, in fear of how that time may come, but always with Christian hope and confidence and patience for eventual glory.

God’s patience with us is eternal. How sorely we have tried that patience!

### Prayer.

As the fulfilment of Advent approaches and we become busier and busier, let us take time in our preparations to remember what we are preparing for. Give thanks for the faith and the patience of Mary as she awaited the birth of God’s son.

Lord Jesus, may we face life with patience; may we show patience in our dealings with others; and wait patiently for your coming. Amen.