

MESSENGER - SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY 2023

NEWS, SERVICE SHEET AND 'THOUGHT FOR THE DAY' FOR THE CHENDERIT BENEFICE



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

Services

Sunday 9th January 2023

8.15am Holy Communion at Sulgrave
10.30am All Age Service at Marston St Lawrence
10.30am Holy Communion at Middleton Cheney

Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th January

10.00am Holy Communion at All Saints

Sunday 15th January

9.00am Holy Communion at Chacombe
10.30am Morning Praise at Middleton Cheney
10.30am Holy Communion at Sulgrave
10.45am Holy Communion at Thenford

Wednesdays at All Saints

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

10 – 10.30am Said Communion service

10.30am – 12.30pm **Jolly Teapot!**

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

First Steps is our weekly service for babies and toddlers with their parents or carers and is on every Wednesday from 2 – 3pm during term time.

At all other times between 10am and 4pm church will be open and there will be a warm space in the side chapel. Refreshments will be available.



The **124 gift-filled shoe boxes** which we sent off in the Autumn was a great achievement by our local community. They will be gratefully received by children in the Ukraine as well as in a few other countries.

It would be wonderful to exceed that number of shoe boxes this year, to send joy to even more needy children; so let's start preparing now for this to happen, by collecting goodies and empty shoe boxes each month for our 'Wrap & Fill' boxes; also a good plan for people who intend to pack a shoe box at home or work later in the year.

Mindful that we are currently living in challenging times, if it is possible to buy an item each month from the list of goodies, below, which are always needed, it will be really helpful.

A reminder that there are 3 age groups of boys and girls we pack boxes for:

2 to 4 years, 5 to 9 years, 10 to 14 years, so gifts should be age related and, for import reasons, must be new, please.

There is a collection box at the back of All Saints which you can place goodies into throughout this year.

Things needed:

A special item, such as a football with pump, a doll or cuddly toy;

Small fun toy, e.g. cars, skipping rope, tennis balls, yo-yo, play dough / plasticine, games, hand puppets;

School supplies, e.g. exercise book, pad of lined or plain paper, colouring book (A5 size to fit into shoe box), colouring crayons for very young & older children (chunky wax crayons, felt tip pens, colouring pencils), writing pens, eraser, sharpener, geometry set, solar calculator;

Personal Care, e.g. flannel, toothbrush with small head/ child's toothbrush, hair brush, comb, hair elastics & ribbon, lipsalve, push up deodorant, wrapped soap, wash bag (no liquid, lotion nor toothpaste);

Accessories, e.g. hat, gloves, neck warmer / scarf, socks, sunglasses, torch (wind-up or extra batteries), dressing up jewellery, hand / drawstring bag.

This month - January - good items to get, especially in the sales, are hats, gloves & neck warmers / scarves (knitting patterns available for crafters). Also keep collecting empty shoeboxes please (average adult shoe size).

For those who worship at home

Scripture (from Acts 10: 34-43):

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

Hymn 244 - John Oxenham (1852-1941) Hymns Old & New

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In him shall true hearts ev'rywhere their high communion find;
his service is the golden chord, close binding humankind.

Join hands, united in the faith, whate'er your race may be;
who serve my Father as their own are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;
all Christlike souls are one in him, throughout the whole wide earth.

Thought for the day:

Today's reading is from the Acts of the Apostles as recorded by Luke where Peter reminds his hearers and readers of his and the other apostles lived experience and testimony of Jesus. It is the beginning of a longish passage covering Jesus's life from his baptism to his commissioning of the apostles to proclaim that it is Jesus who was (ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. v42) The REB translation of the Bible has the word 'partiality' recorded as 'favourites' and I rather like this because it is followed by the word 'but', leading to Peter making it clear what it takes for individuals to be acceptable to God, namely, to fear, (love him), and do what is right.

It seems to me, looking at the world we live in today, we have many different factions that are thriving by causing friction and distrust between peoples, judging others based on their views never mind race or ethnicity, thinking that by shouting and causing disruption they will gain the upper hand. The only person who has the right to judge anyone is Jesus and he will judge the living and the dead and his criteria for judgement is very simple and has nothing to do with what people seem to be so fixated with today. Firstly, people from all nations who 'love God' and secondly do what is right in the light of that love will be judged well. All others: well. it is just too sad to think about the judgement they will face, but what we can do is pray and keep the covenant referred to in the 'collect' below and sing with gusto and proclaim the truth in the hymn above.

Collect: Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Saviour; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**