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**Newsletter for the week commencing 27th November 2022**

**First Sunday of Advent (A)**

**Entrance antiphon: To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 2: 1-5**

**Psalm 121 Response: I rejoiced when I heard them say: “Let us go to God’s house.”**

**Second Reading: St Paul to the Romans 13: 11-14**

**Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!**

**Gospel: Matthew 24: 37-44**

**Communion antiphon: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.**

**Father Behr writes:**

Dear Parishioners

Wednesday is the feast of St Andrew the patron saint of our parish. We have Mass at 10am.

Prayer

We humbly implore your majesty, O Lord,

that, just as the blessed Apostle Andrew

was for your Church a preacher and pastor,

so he may be for us a constant intercessor before you.  Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.  Amen.

Best Wishes

Father Behruz Rafat

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased: Liz Vickers RIP**

**Those ill or infirm:** Ailish Cantwell (Jones), Sylwia Dorosz, Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Patricia Hook, Josie Payne, Pat Holland, Pat Sargent and all those who are unwell and in need of our prayers.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:** Irene Balkham, Jimmy Hodson, Christopher Crofton, Catherine Broughton, Theresa Maloney, John Lennard, David Daniels, Mary Witham, Ethel Currie and Rose Hewer-Hearst.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Liz Vickers RIP** who died recently.  The funeral Mass is on **Friday December 9 at 11am.**

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| **This week’s services (26th November – 3rd December), Feasts and Mass intentions during the week.** |
| **Saturday 26th November**Feria | **No Mass**10.30 -11am Confession6pm Vigil*Our Lady Queen of Peace* **Reader: Pat** |
| **Sunday 27th November****First Sunday of Advent** | 10am Mass *People of the Parish* **Reader: Collette**12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass  |
| **Monday 28th November**Weekday of Advent | 10am Mass *Mary Iglinski RIP* |
| **Tuesday 29th November**Weekday of Advent | 10am Mass *George and Anna Tissler RIP* |
| **Wednesday 30th November****St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland** | 10am *Gertrude Barclay RIP Foundation Mass* |
| **Thursday 1st December**Weekday of Advent | 9am-10am Adoration10am Mass *Daniel and Julia Leahy RIP* |
| **Friday 2nd December**Weekday of Advent | 10am Mass *Deceased Taylor and Curran Families* 10.30 – 11.30am Adoration |
| **Saturday 3rd December**St Francis Xavier, Priest  | 10.30 -11am Confession6pm Vigil*Alex Hatch RIP*  **Reader: Family readers Christine & Lucie** |
| **Sunday 4th December****Second Sunday of Advent** | 10am Mass *People of the Parish* **Reader: Brian**12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass  |
| **Flowers: for 4th December – Suzanne to check Advent wreath** |
| **Readers: for Saturday 3rd Dec – Christine & Lucie/Sunday 4th Dec - Brian** |

**Confession**

Fr Behr is available for Confession every Saturday from 10.30am - 11am. He is also happy to visit those who are not able to  come to church.

**A big thanks** to all those who supported the Tenterden School House Larder appeal.  It raised a total of **£316.68.**

**A free short reflection brought to you each day of Advent:**

***Advent can be such a busy demanding time, but we encourage you to make some space to reflect and pray this advent.***Sign up for our free Southwark Diocesan  ‘daily advent reflections’ to aid your prayer.

Every day during advent you will receive an email with a very brief thought for the day based on the daily reading. It is an opportunity to listen to Gods invitation to you this advent. All you have to do is sign up and then set aside a couple of minutes each day to reflect! Sign up via the Commission web site: <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/> clicking on the Advent Reflection box. Alternatively, if you are viewing this online, you can sign up directly by clicking here: <https://southwarkdsc.us11.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=a3e1dce7f8f666e9d64edd867&id=4f880b3b9c>

**Preparing For Christ’s coming at Christmas**

**Saturday 10th December – 14:00 to 16:00**

Father Behr and Deacon Jolyon would welcome your company and assistance to set up the Crib in the Church and the Christmas Tree in the Porch. We would like help to set up the frame for the crib and the covering, to clean the figures and to put them in place. Tree decorators are also welcome. Your rewards will include hot drinks/ mulled wine/mince pies and cake. Please let us know if you can help.

**Saturday 17th December – pre-Christmas spit and polish** **– times to be agreed**.

Rachel and Martin and members of the Church Cleaning team are aiming to give the Church a pre-Christmas mega-clean. If you are able to assist, please let them know.

**Advent Wreath Workshop**

Lorraine is hosting an Advent wreath workshop on Sunday 27 November after the 10am Mass.

All are welcome- families, children and grandparents.  For more details ring 01580 762764

**Christmas foliage decorations.**

We would like to ask parishioners to make an evergreen arrangement for a window  ledge ( less difficult than a flower one). We would provide a container and Oasis to be collected after Mass on the weekend of 10th and 11th December and to be brought back the following weekend. A sample one would be  on the desk in the porch with the containers.   Evergreens are long lasting so should be O.K. for Christmas. We need 11!

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There will also be a **collection for flowers** at Masses on **December 3rd and 4th.**

Thank you.

**Churches Together in Tenterden**

**Joint Advent Course**

The first session of our Churches Together Advent Course was held last Wednesday night - the topic John the Baptist. It will continue for the next 3 Wednesday evenings in Saint Mildred's from 7pm to 8:30pm.

The sessions are self-contained, so you are welcome to as many sessions as you can.

**Everybody welcome**!

**Christmas Cheer and Christmas Big Wrap 2022**

Through this year’s *Christmas Cheer and Christmas Big Wrap Appeal*, we will once again try and brighten the lives of people in our communities who are finding life tough.

 How can you help?

 **First,** by making a financial donation. The donations we receive will be turned into Tesco Gift Vouchers and given to hard-pressed local families, identified by the Family Liaison Officer at each of our schools: Rolvenden County Primary School, St Michael’s Church of England Primary School, Tenterden County Infant School and Tenterden Church of England Junior School, and Wittersham Church of England Primary School.

 If you wish to donate, you can do so online *(here are the bank details):*

*Lloyds / 30 90 28 / 01663306 / PCC St Mildreds*

 Please identify your donation, using the phrase *Christmas Cheer and Big Wrap Appeal*.

 Alternatively, pop your donation into an envelope marked *Christmas Cheer and Big Wrap Appeal* and give it to one of our ministers, put it through the letterbox at either Appledore or Tenterden Vicarage, or post it *(cheques made payable to PCC St Mildred’s)* to The Vicarage, Old Way, Appledore, Ashford, Kent TN26 2DB, or The Vicarage, Church Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6AT.

 Donations can be large, small, or somewhere in between. Please give if you can. It would help us if your donation could be **received by Sunday 4th December**. Thank you!

 **Second,** take along a brand-new Christmas present, suitable for a child, to the *Christmas Cheer and Christmas Big Wrap* wrapping session at St Mildred, Tenterden, on **Saturday 3rd December** from 9.30am. All presents will go to the same families as the Tesco Gift Cards.

 In the past, the *Christmas Cheer* *and* *Christmas Big Wrap Appeal* has received some very moving letters of gratitude, and so we know that we will make a real difference to people’s lives this Christmas.

**Quality Used Book Sale**

(including a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction)in aid of the Old School House Larder Charity

Saint Andrew’s Parish Centre

Saturday 3rd December 15:00 to 17:45 Sunday 4th December 09:00 to 10:00/11:00 to 12:00

**Tuesday Film Show**

Why not come to the parish centre to watch a ‘holy film’ in a Warm and friendly atmosphere. Refreshments from 10.30am with film from 10.50am.

**Live Simply Christmas**

The word we hear so often in the weeks before Christmas is “Tradition”. It is particularly promoted by the glossies who like to sell us the concept of “the perfect Christmas”. But do we want Christmas to be about things - or about family? Will we do what the commercial world wants us to do (spend) or what WE want to do (celebrate with love)?

The following are just ideas - to make you think about ways to get more out of Christmas whilst reducing the waste.

1. For adults, why not have a “Secret Santa” instead of buying individual presents for ten or a dozen people. This means you choose just one present with care rather than a dozen or so in haste. There is also the fun of wondering “who bought for whom”.  £10 is often considered a suitable value, but each to their own.

2. Alternatively ask for a “World Gift” or a donation to a charity in your name. Knowing that you have met somebody else’s need is truly in the spirit of Christmas.

3. Consider Fairtrade products. There is a wide range of crafts, Christmas decorations and even Christmas cakes available from Traidcraft. Supermarkets stock a wide range of Fairtrade goods, including some excellent wines.

4. Consider a subscription to something useful that also benefits the community. For instance a year’s membership to the National Trust or similar organisation - you can look forward in the dark days of winter to summer outings with the family.

5. Where possible, make rather buy things. A little “making” project can be very relaxing at the end of a busy day. Why not start by making Advent Calendars for the children? Choosing the quotes for the windows is, in itself, a spiritual exercise.

6. Make some of your Christmas cards. Deliver local ones on foot or by bike as a little outing.

7. Leave an empty place at the Christmas table as a reminder of those who will not have enough to eat that day.

8. We often hear that “Christmas is for children” – but how often do we really INVOLVE them, not just in Christmas, but in the preparation too? Here are some ideas:

• Have fun planning Christmas as a family, starting with Advent

• Get them to make the decorations rather than buying them

• Ask them to make, rather than buy your present - it will be something made with love for you to treasure

• Ask them to prepare a special grace for the Christmas meal

• Ask them to do something “extra” for Christmas that helps take the strain off you. For instance, young children to have a “special” quiet time or teenagers to give the house a “special” clean before putting up the decorations

9. If you do buy presents:

• Look for things that are durable rather than being in landfill in three months. Also where, possible, things made of natural products rather than plastic, or crafted by hand rather than machine-made.

• Take children for a good browse in a craft shop rather than just heading straight for the toyshop.

Christmas is what YOU make it. It should be a time of love both for your own family and for the brothers and sisters in our worldwide family.  Stephen Garsed

**We will have a Fire Drill on Sunday 4 December at the end of Mass**.