

SOUTH LAWRES AND BARLINGS NEWSLETTER No. 141

w/c Sunday 18th December 2022

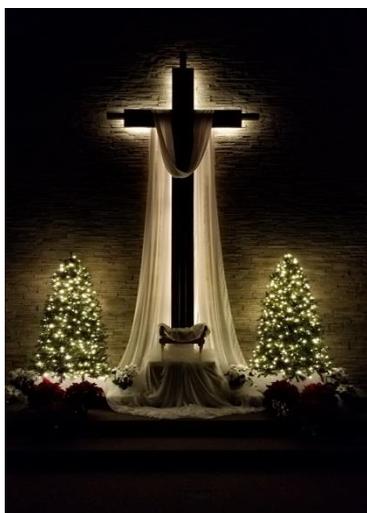
Advent 4

Social Media

Instagram! Go to SLB Churches and follow! Twitter @SLBChurches Facebook

www.facebook.com/SLBChurches

Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-8, Matthew 1:18-end



The Church of England released their Easter resources this week!! It made me (Jess) laugh- I like to be planned and forward thinking but even for me that seems premature!! Granted the Easter eggs will no doubt be in the shops on Boxing Day but let's at least journey through Christmas before we turn our thoughts to Easter! With all the busyness of this season it's easy to get into the habit of rushing onto the next thing without really stopping to be in the moment. Don't get me wrong I'm all for forward thinking, and anyone who knows me knows I like to have a plan, but I've been reflecting this week that there is something to be said for being in the present. God calls us to be people who look around, who notice his world, who respond to the need we see in it- and it's hard to do that if we are constantly focused on the future. In this final week before we get to Christmas, there is another chance for us to be mindful of ourselves and our surroundings as we journey through this final week of Advent. My aim this week is to find 5 minutes each day to stop,

to breathe deeply, to focus on what I can see, what can I hear and how do I feel...and to remember that tomorrow will be here soon enough. For now let's give thanks for today and for all we have in the present.

Christmas Services

There is a lot happening in this next week before Christmas. This newsletter will give you the latest, and you can keep up to date by following us on Facebook. A list of all the services is also on our website.

Online Carol service

We are going to produce a carol service for online on Christmas Eve afternoon- some musical accompaniment as you stuff the turkey and prep the sprouts! If you would like to request your favourite carol to be included please let Jess know your choice by Monday 19th December, you can email her on revjessbellshaw@gmail.com

Anyone need help?

I am just aware that in this freezing cold weather you, or maybe people around you, may need help. We often look to the wider community for those in need of help, but if you are struggling then let me know. It could be finance, shopping, bills – just don't suffer in silence – please.....

Advent Trail

The Advent trail at Cherry Fields is up for one more week! Grab an answer sheet from the ones available there or print your own at home (contact Jess for a copy!) Follow the star around Cherry Fields and find the 9 clues, unscramble the letters, bring your answer sheet to the Carols at The Parade on December 20th at 6.30pm and claim your prize!!

Thankyou

Many thanks to Odette and Claire who have volunteered for the Flower Rota at Cherry and thankyou to all those who contribute to this lovely ministry.

Services and Meetings next week

Online Morning Prayer 8am Monday to Friday on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/SLBChurches

Online Compline 7pm Monday to Thursday on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SLBChurches

Sunday 18th December Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9.00am Online service www.facebook.com/SLBChurches and on YouTube at SLB Churches
- 9.15am Holy Communion at Fiskerton
- 10.45am Holy Communion at Sudbrooke
- 6.30pm Carol Service at Reepham church

Monday 19th December

- 10.30am Grand Luce Communion Service

Tuesday 20th December

- 10.30am Willow Court Communion Service
- 6.30pm Carols at The Parade in Cherry Willingham

Wednesday 21st December

- 9.30am Holy Communion in Cherry Willingham church
- 7.00pm Carols by Candlelight in Langworth Church

Thursday 22nd December

- 10.30am Funeral of Eileen James at the crematorium

Friday 23rd December

- 7.00pm Christmas Sing-a-long at Sudbrooke Church

Christmas Eve

- 3.00pm Crib service at Reepham Church
- 3.00pm Crib service at Cherry Willingham Church
- 6.00pm Carol service at Fiskerton Church
- 11.15pm Midnight Mass at Sudbrooke Church
- 11.15pm Midnight Mass at Reepham Church

Christmas Day

- 9.00am Online service www.facebook.com/SLBChurches and on YouTube at SLB Churches
- 9.00am Holy Communion at Stainton by Langworth
- 10.30am Holy Communion at Cherry Willingham

There will be no Communion Service on Wednesday 28th December and no online services between Christmas and the New Year.

New Years Day

A slightly different arrangement on New Years Day – as we hold two Deanery Communion Services:

10am at All Saints Nettleham

11am at St Hilary's, Spridlington – Penny and Jess will be taking the Service here – an opportunity to meet others in our Deanery! Feel free to join us and if you want a lift, let us know!

Notices

Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union continues to gather together monthly. The dates and information for the meetings and speakers are as follows:

10th January 2023 AGM & Quiz

14th February Julia McNeill – Finding Godly Love

Prayer

Eternal Father, who weaves us all into the continuing story of grace: grant that, as we in South Lawres and Barlings continue to place footsteps with faith around our community, we may live our lives in a way that allows your story to shine through, encouraging and challenging others to live their part in it: through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Friday 16th December

Pray for our schools as they break up today. Give thanks for the staff and children, pray all will have a healthy, safe and restful Christmas holiday. Pray especially for those children who will find Christmas at home difficult.

Saturday 17th December

Pray for our worshipping communities in Langworth, Barlings, Sudbrooke and Stainton by Langworth. Pray that the church will be a beacon of light and hope to their villages. Give thanks for the PCC and Churchwardens who serve in this places.

Sunday 18th December

Pray for our worship today, and especially for our carol service this evening in Reepham. Pray that those who attend might find a warm welcome and be aware of the presence of God, and hear of his love for them.

Monday 19th December

Tomorrow is the Christian's Together Carols at The Parade. Pray that as we sing those who pass by and those who attend might hear the Christmas message and would hear how they are loved by God. Pray for The Vine church and the Methodist churches in our villages, that this Christmas season would be a blessed one for them.

Tuesday 20th December

Pray for the staff and residents of Willow Court, that this Christmas time will be one of peace, good health and joy for them all. Pray today for the team who go into Willow Court and Grand Luce to visit and to lead services.

Wednesday 21st December

Christmas is often a tricky time for those who are mourning. Pray today for those who face this first Christmas without a loved one, and those for who this year brings difficult memories. Pray that Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace will bring comfort and hope this day.

Thursday 22nd December

Pray for our worshipping communities in Fiskerton, Cherry Willingham, Reepham and Greetwell. Pray that the church will be a beacon of light and hope to their villages. Give thanks for the PCC and Churchwardens who serve in these places.

Collect

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**