

Welcome to St Matthias & St George Parish Church.

A member of "Christ the King" team ministry.

Week Commencing 31st December 2017.

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! Psalm 148 v 1-2

Fr Michael Bartlett – Team Rector.

St Peter's Crabbs Cross, Tel 01527 545709

Fr Glenn Reading - Team Vicar

Tel 01527 894436 or 07964 282278

**Today's Service for Sunday 31st December,
1st Sunday after Christmas**

10.30am sung Eucharist (Common Worship)

led by Father Barry Jones

10.30am Sunday Stars in the hall led by Irene.

Services for W/C 31st December

There will be no Monday Prayers or Tuesday Eucharist this week.

9.00 am Sunday 7th January 2018, 1st Sunday after the Epiphany, said Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer) led by Father Glenn.

10.30 am Family Service led by Irene.

Log onto our website for more information.

www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk

'Spotlight' Notices: Please give notices for inclusion in next week's issue to **Richard Porteous** by next Thursday on 01527 542620 or at richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk

We pray for those who are sick:- Mick Bolt, Philippa Kreuser, Alex, Karen & Dale Roberts, Colin & Alison Daines, Marion Lee, Edna Weale, Jean Lees, Duncan Glover, Kate Vicos, Joyce Thomas, Margaret Emms, Alexie & Bettina, Marion Williams, Janice & family Sarah Harwood, Rosemary Hudson, together with their families.

We pray for the soul of Ron Gurden, recently departed. His funeral service will be held in church at 10am on 4th January, led by Revd. Mike Spencer, Chaplain to the R B L.

Similarly we pray for the soul of Mark Oddy, recently departed.

We pray also for the soul of David Perkins, for many years a stalwart of this church before moving away, who has recently passed away.

Nightstop foodbank: There is a box at the rear of the church in which you can place food and toiletry gifts.

Thanks: Rhonda and her team of floral decorators wish to thank all those who contributed foliage towards decorating the church. Our thanks go to them for beautifying the church so splendidly.

Confirmation: We pray for Charlotte Flower, Ross Harrison, Lilly Hill, Lauren Parkes & Toby Reading as they prepare for Confirmation in the New Year.

Stamps: Please put any stamps collected from Christmas cards and letters in the box at the back of the church or in an envelope through Pam Emery's letterbox.

Christmas Quiz: Answer sheets for the quiz can be found at the rear of the church. The winner will be announced next week.

Holy Innocents Day 28th December: Last Thursday, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, also known as Childermas, was celebrated throughout the Western Church. This remembers the young innocent male children slain by Herod in an attempt to stop a possible rival to his throne posed by the Christ child. Whilst tradition has it that large numbers of children were slaughtered, even if the event occurred as described, the number is more likely to have been between 6 and 20, horrific enough. The Holy Innocents were generally regarded by the early church as the first martyrs for the faith, despite being unknowing and not Christian.

Prior to the 17th century it was customary to spank your children at sunrise on Holy Innocents to remind them of the suffering the innocents of Bethlehem had to endure!

But in the first half of 2017 in Syria alone, some 1659 children have died at the hands of ISIS, the coalition airstrikes and the Syrian/Russian military forces. This year it is estimated that some 50,000 children could well have died of starvation, disease and warfare in Yemen. During the coming week let us pray for those young innocents and the many others killed by warfare, disease, starvation throughout the world.

