

Welcome to St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of "Christ the King" team ministry.
Week Commencing Sunday 23rd December 2018

His mercy is for those who fear him from one generation to another. Luke 1 v 50

Fr Glenn Reading - Team Vicar
Tel 01527 894436 or 07964 282278

Today's Service for Sunday 23rd December 4th Sunday of Advent,

10.30 am sung Eucharist (Common Worship) with Nativity rehearsals in the hall

Hymns: 358 O come, O come, Emmanuel

467 Tell out, my soul

471 The Angel Gabriel from heaven came

71 Brightest and best

6.30 pm Carol Service here tonight.

Services for W/C 23rd December

24th Monday, Christmas Eve

6.00 pm Christingle and Nativity

10.00 pm Christmas Eve Eucharist

25th Christmas Day

10.00 am sung Family Eucharist led by Rev Clive

Leach, Principal of Walkwood Academy

Sunday 30th December 10.30 am sung Eucharist

(Common Worship) led by Rev Barry Jones

We pray for those who are sick:- Mick Bolt, Philippa Kreuser, Rosie, Alex, Edna Weale, Jean Lees, Joyce Thomas, Margaret Emms, Margaret Mills, Marion Williams, Tally, Alexei, Sarah Harwood, Rosemary Hudson, Rev Ivor and Dora Merry, Margaret Savage, Ann Heath, Liz, Janie and Stewart Kirby, Nesta Pearman, Kerry.

*There are **Christian Aid** leaflets at the back of Church to take home and read. One is about choosing a charity gift for that difficult person. An interesting read. Also there is a Christian Aid magazine with moving articles about the Rohingya people and the country of Kenya. Please take them, read them and pass them on to others.*

Stamps! With Christmas well on its way, please put any stamps collected from Christmas cards in the box at the back of the church or in an envelope through Pam Emery's letterbox.

A big thank you: to Sue and Peter Ratcliffe for funding the ink and photocopying Spotlight each week. Without them we would not have this newsletter.

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

Log onto our website for more information

www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk

Foliage Wanted: Rhonda and her team of floral decorators will be decorating the church from 2pm onwards **today** and require lots of foliage. If you can help, please bring foliage to the church or contact Rhonda on 893560 to make alternative arrangements.

Churches Together in Redditch: This December we are invited to pray for all churches and congregation in the **CTiR** group. There are at least 21 congregations that are formal members of CTiR, and several other fellowships. We are asked to pray **for the congregations and ministers in each of these churches:** that we also will be refreshed, renewed, encouraged, and enthused, as we celebrate the coming of Christ's birth. We pray that through our activities and services, new people will be reached and receive the good news of His coming.

Christmas Hub Night Shelter *this year will take place from Monday 24th December to Tuesday 1st January 2019 inclusive at the Ecumenical Centre. It will provide 10 nights of food, shelter and warmth for any rough sleepers. We pray for sufficient material and financial provision to run the Night Shelter - and also the Daytime Hub in the Ecumenical Centre which will be open from 11am - 4pm providing drinks/snacks to the lonely and vulnerable. We pray for sufficient numbers of appropriate volunteers to staff the hub and shelter and that those most in need will find their way to this refuge for those in material or social need.*

Nightstop foodbank: In the run up to Christmas, which will be very bleak for several families, please remember that there is a box at the rear of the church in which you can place food and toiletry gifts.

Today's Gospel: 'Mary's faith was simple, uncluttered by the questions and attempted explanations that so often complicate ours. She has been called the model disciple for she heard the voice of God, believed it and surrendered herself totally to it. Mary did not know what lay ahead for her or Jesus, however, her trust in God was so complete that even though she could not understand what Jesus was doing, she was willing to give him every single aspect of her life. How do we feel about such dedication to God; is it something we shy away from? *Lord, give us the grace to trust you with the same abandonment that Mary had.*'

Abridged from Sunday Link, 23rd December 2001