

Welcome to St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of "Christ the King" team ministry.
Week Commencing Sunday 2nd December 2018, Advent Sunday

Jesus said..... 'Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away'. Luke 21 v33

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

Today's Service for Sunday 2nd December 1st Sunday of Advent,

9.00 am said Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)
10.30 am **no Family Service** but Nativity rehearsals in the hall, children and helpers welcome

3.00pm Toy Service and First Parish Communion for those recently confirmed, to be followed by a tea party afterwards. All are welcome to this special occasion

Services for W/C 2nd December

Monday 3rd 12 noon Mid-day prayers
Tuesday 4th 10.00 am said Eucharist
Sunday 9th December 10.30 am sung Eucharist (Common Worship)
10.30 am Nativity rehearsal.

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, and all their families

Concert with the Alcester Male Voice Choir 7pm for 7.30pm, Saturday 8th December – Tickets from Ann R/ Irene, £10, £8.50 concessions, £5 children.

The Remembrance Day Service collection realised £300 which has been passed to the Astwood Bank Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Messy Church: Because of the busy periods before and after Christmas, there will be no Messy Church in December or January but will resume in February.

Pauline writes: *There are **Christian Aid** leaflets at the back of Church for people to take home and read. One is the about choosing a charity gift for that difficult person, maybe school bags and books for £9, or a goat for £22! 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.*

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

Irene would like to thank all those who helped in any way or attended the **Christmas Fayre** which has raised £450 so far for church funds.

3pm Today!! First Parish Communion and Toy Service. Today there is a First Parish Communion Service for those who were confirmed last Sunday, and also our traditional **Toy Service**. This will be followed by a 'bring and share' party and it is hoped that as many members of the congregation as possible will attend to welcome the new members into our 'confirmed' congregation.

As in previous years it is hoped that lots of **Toys** will be donated for local prisoners' families who, in the words of Prison Chaplain, Rev Margie Schutte, are families who serve a 'second sentence'. **Toys** for babies up to teenagers should not be wrapped but placed in a Christmas or plain bag; they'll be wrapped later.

Prayer Chain: Pauline Jones is the Prayer Chain contact. If you have someone you wish to be prayed for, please contact Pauline on 892650 who will then contact other members of the Prayer Group.

Astwood Memory Café, is meeting between **2 - 4 pm on Thursday 6th December** in the church hall. The café welcomes those with dementia, together with their carers, along with those who may feel lonely and isolated. Tea and biscuits will be provided and it is intended that there will be activities each session for people to enjoy. The café is run by members of the Astwood Bank branch of the Redditch Kingfisher Rotarians. If you have any questions then contact Carol Yates on 07598 -775789 or on www.astwoodbankrotary.org

Advent, from the Latin *adventus*, focuses on expectation and serves as an anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading up to Christmas.

Did you know that the fairy at the top of the Christmas tree was originally a little figure of the baby Jesus? In late 17th century Germany this became a shining angel. In Victorian Britain, little girls would take the angel down after Christmas and dress him in dolls' clothes. Eventually the angel turned into a thoroughly female fairy, complete with wand. The transformation was boosted by the pantomimes that became popular in the Victorian era - and, naturally, included a good fairy in the cast.

Log onto our website for more information
www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk

