

St Matthias & St George Parish Church.
A member of “Christ the King” team ministry.
Week Commencing 15th December 2019

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” Matthew 11 v 11

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**Today’s Services for Sunday,
15th December Advent 3**

9.00 am said Eucharist (Common Worship)
10.30 am Sunday Stars Nativity rehearsal
6.30 pm sung Evensong
Hymns: 198 Hark, the glad sound
517 Through the night of doubt and sorrow
401 On Jordan’s bank
295 Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Services for W/C 15th December

Monday 16th 12 noon Mid-day prayers
Tuesday 17th 10.00 am said Eucharist
Sunday 22nd 10.30 am sung Eucharist (CW)
10.30 am Sunday Stars Nativity rehearsal

We pray for those who are sick:- Philippa, Rosie, Alex, Jean, Joyce, Margaret, Marion, Alexei, Dora, Margaret, Stewart, Margaret, Nesta, Hazel, Heather, Ben, Carol, Talisein, Carla and their families.

We pray for the soul of Reverend Ivor Merry recently departed after a long illness and hold his wife Dora and his family in our prayers. Ivor was a Non -Stipendiary Priest at St Luke’s (now the Bridge) before coming to SS Matthias & George. His funeral will be at 11.45 am, tomorrow, Monday 16th December at Redditch Crematorium.

Foodbanks: There is a box at the rear of the church in which food and toiletry gifts can be placed which will go to **Nightstop**.

A huge thank you to Sue and Peter Ratcliffe for all their hard work, time and expense in supporting Spotlight by printing it and taking it to Pam Emery each week. We are very grateful.

‘Open conversations’ The Diocese is planning a series of meetings around the diocese to look at how ministry is going to be funded in the future in light of current budget problems. The Diocese is already planning to cut 15 stipendiary posts! Please take a leaflet from the back of the church and attend one of the meetings if you can.

Diary dates: - - **Thursday 19th** 6.30 – 8pm, **Carols Around the Village** starting at the Oddfellows in Foregate Street and ending at church for mulled wine and mince pies. Mmmm!.
- **Sunday 22nd Carol Service** at 6.00 pm at the **Bridge**, Headless Cross. All are welcome
- **Tuesday 24th 6pm Christingle and Nativity;**
11.30 pm - **Midnight Mass** both here in church

Foliage Wanted: Rhonda and the floral team require lots of foliage for decorating the church at Christmas. If you can help, please bring foliage to the church during this coming week or contact Rhonda on 893560 to make alternative arrangements.

Forthcoming CTiR Events: *Kingfisher Centre Carols – Saturday 21st 11am, with a joint CTiR choir.*

Radiate Redditch will open its Christmas Hub from 24th December to 1st January inclusive (closed 28th December) at the Ecumenical Centre, Evesham Walk. The **Daytime Drop-in** will offer hot drinks and snacks during the day, a hot meal at lunchtime, and most importantly a warm, friendly atmosphere from 11.00am to 4.00pm.

This year, whilst no overnight accommodation will be provided, the organisation CCP will operate a Severe Weather Emergency Provision at Redditch Baptist Church on nights when the temperature is predicted to fall below freezing. Please contact the charity Streetlink: 0300 500 0914 or via www.streetlink.org.uk if you meet anyone in need of a place to sleep.

Please pray that enough volunteers will come forward to help; that those guests who need company, support and friendship during the Christmas season will find their way to The Hub; that good relationships will be built and that all who come to the Hub will encounter the love of God in action; for all rough sleepers on the streets of our town that they will engage with those offering help and support.

Spotlight Notices: Please give notices for inclusion in Spotlight to **Richard Porteous** by next Thursday on 01527 542620 or at richardporteous@yahoo.co.uk. Log onto our website for more information www.astwoodbankchurch.org.uk

