

Next Sunday, 20th December, is the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**. Diane Whittaker will preside at Holy Communion at 8am. There will be Family Communion 9.30am with a Nativity presented by the Trailblazers and Crossbearers. Diane Whittaker will preside. There will be a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.30pm in St Mary's.

Service of Lessons and Carols

by candlelight

Sunday 20th December at 6.30pm in St Mary's

All welcome

Whitechapel Mission: We are looking for someone to either take over or provide long-term cover as the local collection point for Whitechapel Mission donations. It is not an onerous commitment and anyone who is possibly interested can find out more by contacting Julian or Marie-France Rowland on 01438 812560 or email julianrowland@hotmail.com.

Why one pink candle! This year there has been a change to our Advent Wreath. We have 3 purple candles, 1 pink candle and 1 white candle. The Liturgical colour for Advent is Purple – the colour of repentance. A purple candle was lit on Advent Sunday and a 2nd purple candle last Sunday, Advent II. These will be lit again this Sunday, Advent III, together with the **pink** candle. The 3rd Sunday of Advent is historically a Sunday for rejoicing (refreshment) in the middle of Advent. The last purple candle joins these on the 4th Sunday of Advent. The white candle is lit at the first Eucharist of Christmas (Midnight Mass) when we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Eunice Reddish

Christingle: A very big **Thank You** to everyone who helped to make last Sunday's Christingle Service such a success. It was very much a team effort. Eunice Reddish



For your Prayers

The Residents of: Ellesfield; Elmoor Avenue; Elmoor Close

The Sick: Muriel Taylor; Yim Lon Chong; Connie Udale; Sophie Washington; Dawn Tilley; Bryan Tipping; Peter Brooks; Lynda Corry; Penny Wakefield; Ann Gurney

Those who have died recently and for their families and friends: Canon John Farrant; Betty Bryant

This week please pray for:

Our Clergy, Coralie, Diane and Stephen
Our Readers Colin, Usha, Catherine and Mick
The Community Café
The Pram Service
The Service of Compline
The Carer's Lunch
Our children as they prepare their Nativity for next Sunday
All the churches of our Team Ministry during this period of a vacancy

Next week's readings: Micah 5: 2-5a; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1: 39-45

St Mary's Church Office:
open weekdays 10am-12noon Tel: 01438 840964
e-mail secretary@welwyn.org.uk
Parish Web site www.welwyn.org.uk

St Mary the Virgin,
Welwyn

**Sunday 13th December
The Third Sunday of Advent**

We welcome all our visitors to this **Service of Parish Communion** and hope you will stay behind afterwards for a cup of coffee.

For those with a hearing aid an induction loop is fitted in this church for your use. There are also large print versions of the service and the hymn books available. Please ask one of the sidespersons.

*God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way
of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

Opening Hymn: 'Awake, awake fling off the night'

1. Awake, awake: fling off the night!
for God has sent his glorious light;
and we who live in Christ's new day
must works of darkness put away.
2. Awake and rise, like men renewed,
men with the Spirit's power endued.
The light of life in us must glow,
and fruits of love and kindness show.
3. Let in the light; all sin expose
to Christ, whose life no darkness knows.
Before his cross for guidance kneel;
his light will judge and, judging, heal.

4. Awake, and rise up from the dead,
and Christ his light on you will shed.
Its power will wrong desires destroy,
and your whole nature fill with joy.

5. Then sing for joy, and use each day;
give thanks for everything alway.
Lift up your hearts; with one accord
praise God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

First Reading: : Zephaniah 3: 14-end
(Read by Natasha Rowland)

Second Reading: Philippians 4: 4-7
(Read by Julian Rowland)

Gradual Hymn: 15
‘The Lord will come and not be slow’

Gospel: Luke 3: 7-18

Offertory Hymn: 11
‘O come, O come Emmanuel’
(During this hymn a collection will be taken)

During Communion the Choir will sing:
‘This is the truth’ - Vaughan Williams

Communion Hymn:
‘May the mind of Christ my Saviour’

1) May the mind of Christ my Saviour
live in me from day to day,
by his love and pow’r controlling
all I do and say.

2) May the word of God dwell richly
in my heart from hour to hour,
so that I may triumph only
in his saving pow’r.

3) May the peace of God my Father
rule my life in ev’rything,
that I may be calm to comfort
sick and sorrowing.

4) May the love of Jesus fill me,
as the waters fill the sea;
him exalting, self abasing,
this is victory.

5) May I run the race before me,
strong and brave to face the foe,
looking only unto Jesus,
as I onward go.

Final Hymn: 9
‘Lo he comes with clouds descending’

 Notices 

There will be a service of *Evensong* at 6.30pm
evening in St Mary’s led by Coralie McCluskey.

Welwyn Community Café
every Tuesday from 9am-12noon
in St Mary’s New Church House

This is a joint venture between the Parish Council
and St Mary’s and aims to provide a weekly
congenial meeting place for everyone in the local
area.

Tea/coffee/biscuits/cakes available

Pram Service: The next Pram Service will be on
Wednesday, 16th December, at 2pm in St Mary’s.
We will be attempting to tell the Christmas story
with the children - appropriate costumes welcome.
All pre-school children, their parents and carers
welcome at this relaxed informal service.

Welwyn’s Big Carol Sing

Wednesday 16th December
from 6-6.30pm

in the churchyard
followed by festive refreshments
in New Church House

Help is needed with refreshments, giving out carol sheets
and a bucket collection for Shelter for Hertfordshire
Please contact Jane Carr on jane@carrassociates.co.uk
or 01438 840720

The last of our services of
Candlelit Compline
Wednesday 16th December
at 9.00pm in St Mary’s

Compline is a quiet, reflective service with a
Meditation focusing on the themes of Advent.

The next **Carers’ Lunch** will be on Thursday 17th
December in St Mary’s New Church House. We arrive
from 12 midday onwards for a drink and a chat, and
lunch is at 12.30. After lunch children from St Mary’s
school will join us to sing Christmas carols. To help
with our catering we would be grateful if you would let
Philippa Dowdell (01438 840964) know if you can
come by Tuesday 15th December. We always have a
little extra for those who find they can come without
prior notice. Please be assured of a very warm wel-
come.

We will be **decorating the church for Christmas** on
Saturday, 19th December, from 10am to 12noon. If
you would like to help, contact Dilys Manoy, on 01438
715720 or dilmanoy@yahoo.co.uk.