

ST MARY ST MICHAEL

— TRUMPINGTON —

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER, ADVENT 2

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

10am All Age Communion

We welcome The Ven. Alex Hughes, who will be leading our services.



COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

READINGS *(in pew bibles)*

NT Romans 15. 4-13 (p. 174-5)

GOSPEL Matthew 3. 1-12 (p. 2-3)

NEXT WEEK, ADVENT 3

8.30am BCP Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion with Junior Church

6.30pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols, followed by festive refreshments

We welcome The Ven. Alex Hughes, who will be leading our services.

CONTACTS

CHURCH WEBSITE www.trumpington.church

The church is now in Vacancy, please refer any queries to the Churchwardens and, during office hours, to Emma.

CHURCHWARDENS

Edmund Brookes 01223 840374

edmundbrookes@outlook.com

Sheila Betts 07889 706625

warden@trumpington.church

Organist – Geoff Symon organist@trumpington.church
Choir Leader – Alan Howard choir@trumpington.church
Parish Safeguarding Officer – Sheila Betts 07889 706625
safeguarding@trumpington.church

CHURCH OFFICE – OPENING TIMES

9am-1pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Emma's email address is: admin@trumpington.church

Please note Emma is 9-11 on Tuesday, Leave on Wednesday

If you want to put a note in the pewsheet, please contact Emma in the office, no later than 9am Wednesday if the note is intended for the forthcoming Sunday. Thank you.

WHAT'S ON Check out the noticeboard in North Chapel

CAROL SINGING AT THE CLAY FARM CHRISTMAS GARDEN PARTY – THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER AT 6.30PM

Once again, the choir and friends will be singing carols at the Clay Farm Community Garden Christmas event. If you enjoy singing, please wrap up well and come and join us! More details from Alan or email choir@trumpington.church

BIBLE STUDY

Please contact one of the Churchwardens if you would like to join a group (Tuesday evening online or alternate Wednesday evenings in person) and they will put you in touch with the group leader.

REIMAGINING PROJECT

A quick update on the planned changes to our church, which include taking out a substantial number of pews and installing a kitchenette and toilet. This will allow a much wider range of community activities to happen here. The Fundraising Committee, chaired by Edward Chaplin, met for the first time this week. We will develop a plan to raise the substantial sum needed, looking to a variety of charitable foundations as well as our Patron, Trinity College, for most of the funds required.

But we agreed that the first task is to spread the word across the wider Trumpington community and encourage a range of events (eg music, talks, art, films, games) to take place here. We have put an advert in the next issue of The Trumpet: copies are available in church, or from Sheila

Betts, for you to take away and share with friends and neighbours.

We are also planning a brainstorming session to encourage ideas for community events and other fundraising ideas, and volunteers to help organise these. Watch this space! Meanwhile, if you have any questions or ideas, please contact Edward Chaplin via Emma at admin@trumpington.church



United Nations' 16 days of Activism against Domestic and Gender Violence from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

An international call for an end to all forms of violence against women and girls.

Please join the Mothers' Union in Ely Diocese and here in Trumpington by tying a prayer card on the prayer tree on the table by the pulpit (cards and pens by the tree). Women and girls in the UK and around the world, especially in Sudan, need your prayers. *The prayer cards will be blessed at today's service.*

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL, 13 & 14 DECEMBER

Can you help during the festival? Sign-up sheets are on the table near the font, or email warden@trumpington.church



BOOK GROUP

The Book Group is reading *The Islandman* by Tomàs O'Crohan, to discuss at the next meeting on Thursday 29 January.

The author's sole purpose in writing this book was, he wrote, "to set down the character of the people about me so that some record of us might live after us, for the like of us will never be seen again." This is an absorbing narrative of a now-vanished way of life, written by one who had known no other.'

All welcome – no invitation needed! For more information please email bookgroup@trumpington.church

Everyone is accepted

Heather Smith *reflects on* Isaiah 11:1-10 and Romans 15:4-13

Isaiah tells us a shoot is to come from the stock of Jesse and a branch from his roots. Jesse was the father of David, the king who was fundamental to Jewish identity. On the face of it, it is a Jewish story, but scratch the surface and it is not so simple. Matthew tells us in chapter 1 of his Gospel that Jesse is the grandson of Ruth, the non-Jewish Moabite woman who insisted on staying with her Jewish mother-in-law even after her husband died.

Shoots and branches coming from the root and stock of a plant imply going back to the very essence, firmly Jewish perhaps, but Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, sees it as good news for Jews and Gentiles alike: "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles" (Romans 15:12).

As Christians who have known that God accepts Gentile and Jew for centuries, this may seem like old news, but it tells us that God accepts the unexpected. The root that Jesus sprang from is not an



exclusive thoroughbred plant. As Paul understood so many years later, it incorporates varied material from those who made a decision to follow God, whatever their background. God accepts us all, whoever or whatever we are. At times when we feel on the edge or outsiders that is very good news. 🍷

God, who accepts all who come to you, assure us of your love for us. When we feel alone or unworthy, remind us that your love extends to all, whoever we are, wherever we come from and whatever our situation. Amen.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary

by Alan Jefferies

The Conception of the Virgin Mary is commemorated tomorrow. It is, it has to be acknowledged, an observance that is more readily associated with Roman Catholicism than Anglicanism. Indeed, in the Anglican tradition it is considered a lesser feast or optional observance, although it holds a particular significance in High Anglican and Anglo-Catholic churches and parishes.

But although views on the doctrine of the conception of Mary

vary among Anglicans, Christians are united in honouring her as the Mother of God and recognising her special place in God's plan for salvation. For all Christians she is a model of discipleship and trust in God's purposes. So tomorrow can be an opportunity to reflect on Mary's faithfulness and obedience and to celebrate her seismic "yes" to God's call. The focus remains on God's grace and the unfolding of salvation through Christ, with Mary as a sign of divine mercy and hope, and an example to us all. 🍷

Christmas decorations

Part 1 – lights

by Gillian Cooper

The lights are on the Christmas tree, golden pinpricks. In the dark they can flash or twinkle at the turn of a button. In the electric light they are harder to see.

Lights at Christmas speak of the light of the world, come among us, shining in the darkness and not overwhelmed. And he is still here. In the

darkest places, of course, where he is most needed. But also in the light, in the ordinary, a faint glow that makes the world a better place for his presence.

Look for him when you are wrapping presents, buying the bread sauce, in the pub, going to work, watching the telly. Look for a flash in the corner of your eye. An act of kindness, a word of truth, a declaration of love. Even when the electric lights are on and they can hardly be seen, the tree lights constantly bear their witness. 🍷

“Advent: the time to listen for footsteps – you can't hear footsteps when you're running yourself.”

Bill McKibben (born 1960), American environmentalist, author and journalist