

Sunday 26th November 2023 Sunday before Advent	<h1 style="color: blue;">North Severnside</h1> <h2 style="color: blue;">The latest news from</h2> <h3 style="color: green;">St Mary's Olveston & Littleton</h3> <h3 style="color: green;">St. Helen's Alveston</h3> <h3 style="color: green;">St John's Aust and Elberton</h3>	CONTACT David Moss (Vicar) Tel 01454 415190 or 07890 262334 Or Email the Vicar mossds@gmail.com www.revsrural.com
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SERVICES THIS WEEK

Saturday 25th November		
4.30 pm	REFRESH	St Mary's Olveston
Sunday 26th November		
8.00 am	Holy Communion	St Helen's Alveston
9.00 am	Holy Communion	St John's Elberton
9.00 am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Littleton
10.00 am	Morning Service with Choir	St Mary's, Olveston
10.00 am	Holy Communion	St John's, Aust
10.30 am	Morning Prayer	St Helen's, Alveston
6.00 pm	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Olveston

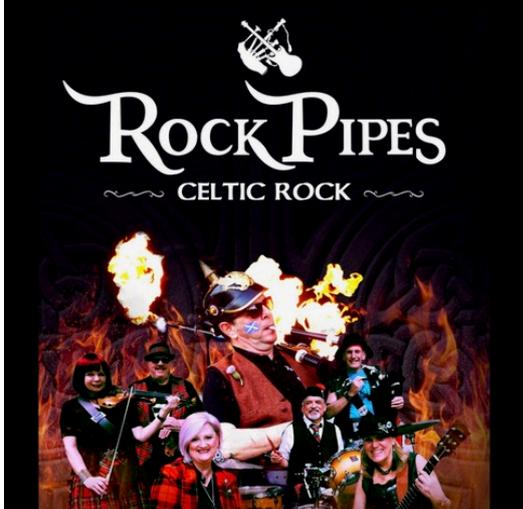
REFLECTION - Feast of Christ the King - Revd. Ann Lloyd

On this Sunday, the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year, we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. This Feast Day marks the end of one Liturgical Year and the start of a new one. The Feast of Christ the King is a relatively recent addition to the Anglican Liturgical Calendar although viewing Christ as the King of the Universe dates back to the early Christian church.

In 1925, after the First World War, due to concern about the growth of secularism and nationalism in the world, Pope Pius XI instituted the Feast of Christ the King to remind people of the universal nature of Christ and the connection that we have to one another due to the fact that we are all part of God's creation.

In 1969 Pope Paul VI moved the date of the celebration from All Saints/All Souls in October to its current date on the last Sunday before Advent. In his 2015 Christ the King address Pope Francis stated, "The Kingdoms of this world at times are sustained by arrogance, rivalries and oppression; the Reign of Christ is a Kingdom of Justice, Love and Peace."

As followers of Christ, and believers in the Son of God, we accept the centrality of Jesus Christ in all aspects of our lives and the centrality of Jesus in the world that God the Father has created. As we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King we are once again exhorted to renew our commitment to strive for Justice, Love and Peace in all aspect of our lives.



Rock Pipes
CELTIC ROCK

TICKETS ON SALE NOW.

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER AT 7.30 PM, ST HELEN'S CHURCH

STIR UP SUNDAY

THE COLLECT

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SOME THOUGHTS... This Sunday is known as Stir up Sunday.

Traditionally, families would gather together in the kitchen to **stir**, mix and steam Christmas pudding. Parents would teach their children how to mix ingredients for the pudding.

As people took a turn stirring up the pudding mix, some made a special wish. By tradition the pudding mixture is stirred from East to West in honour of the three wise men who started their journey to the baby Jesus. Sometimes silver coins were added to the pudding mix for the lucky person to find on Christmas Day and a reflection of the gifts gold, frankincense and myrrh given to the Christ Child.

Today this is a dying custom and in a 2013 survey, two-thirds of British children reported that they had never experienced stirring Christmas pudding mix, reflecting that most now prefer a ready-made pudding from a shop – **Rev David Moss**

SAMARITAN'S CHILD CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who filled a shoe box for children this Christmas. We received 142 boxes to send to the appeal and raised £340 in donations. We are very grateful to everyone who helped with these donations.

NEWS FROM ST HELEN'S ALVESTON

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER AT 4PM – ADVENT CAROLS

Start your spiritual journey to Christmas, please join us for Advent Carols.

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2023, 7.30 PM ROCK PIPES AT CHRISTMAS at

St Helen's Church, Alveston.

Don your brogues and best Christmas jumpers and join us for a fun filled evening of Celtic/Rock mixed with a singalong to some festive favorites! Just £15 per ticket including hot dog, mince pie and a glass of wine. To book your ticket, email: revsrural@gmail.com or call David Moss t: 07890262334

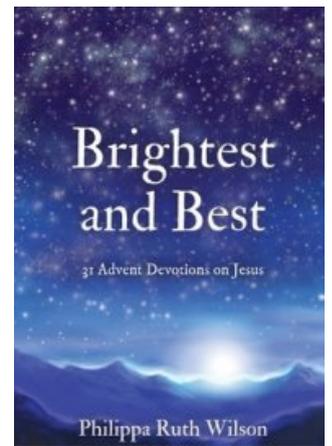
THE STAR TRAIL IS COMING ...

The Star Trail is a prayer space which focuses on the Christmas story, and as we travel through the trail we think about the Three Kings, Mary's Visit from the Angel, Gifts, Rest, Refugees and the importance of waiting.

Prayer spaces enable children and young people, of all faiths and none, to explore life's questions, spirituality, and faith in a safe, creative and interactive way. If you can spare any time Wednesday 29th November or Thursday 30th November to help us guide the children through the trail please contact Jo Baxter (johanna@baxterfamily.uk) or Tracey Black (tracey.lynne.black@hotmail.co.uk). Thank You!

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

We have decided that in the future the best way to support the Children's Society is through a fund raising Coffee morning on the first Tuesday of December instead of the collection boxes. If you could return any boxes we will add the monies to the amount donated at the Coffee Morning and forward them to the charity.



Books have arrived. Please collect your pre-ordered copy



THE COMMUNITY OF THE SISTERS OF THE CHURCH (Bristol)

We are collecting donations to enable the Sisters to create food parcels, these usually include tinned meat or fish, vegetables, baked beans, soup, custard, fruit. We also include a carton of milk, cereal, tea bags and a packet of pasta or rice. The last donations for 2023 must be made before 13th December. The Sisters will be giving out their Christmas food bags on 19th December 19th. Please leave donations in St Helen's church porch.

NEWS FROM ST MARY'S OLVESTON

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER AT 2 PM - SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This is always a lovely start to Christmas with a special concert, replacing our usual evening service at 6pm, of Christmas music by the Salvation Army band from Easton. We will be combining it with our toy service, and would be very grateful if you could bring an unwrapped new toy along. The Salvation Army will then deliver them to deprived children in Bristol for Christmas.

The Salvation Army do a wonderful job supporting communities and we hope you can come and support their important work.



MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER - MONDAY MOVIE CLUB

Put aside all your preconceptions and immerse yourself in the biggest box office film of 2023. It's not what you think, in fact it is a film containing many ethical discussions – not the least being about “patriarchy” in true life.

A (famous) doll living in her own perfect world finds the need to transfer into the real world bringing her boyfriend with her. Here she finds out that it is nothing like the continual sunshine, fun, gaiety and “pink” of her original life.

This is a film which touches upon every human emotion – happiness, sorrow, pain, love and doubt – and deservedly pulled in more cinema followers in 2023 than any other film.

See it for yourself in St Mary's Church, Olveston (this is a community event and admission is free though donations are always welcome) on MONDAY 4th DECEMBER. Doors open at 7pm and film starts promptly at 7:30pm. Tea/coffee. Licensed bar.

ST JOHN'S ELBERTON - SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER

The Church will be open between 2 pm and 3.30 pm. It will not take the form of a service, so drop in and enjoy the festivities with refreshments.

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER OLVESTON & TOCKINGTON METHODIST CHURCH

Advent coffee morning at Olveston Methodist Church. Refreshments in the Hall – coffee, mince pies and other treats will be served from 10.30 am with soup and savoury items later on until 1.30 pm. In the chapel there will be a stall for small gifts and festive items. Profits in aid of Action for Children. We look forward to welcoming your all.

COLLECT

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.



READINGS

Ezekiel 34.11-16, 20-24

¹¹ For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land.

¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰ Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.

²¹ Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³ I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.

²⁴ And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Matthew 25.31-end

³¹ 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

REFLECTIVE PRAYER

Dear Jesus, please give us the inner strength when World events seem so bad and tragedy seems to surrounds us to keep praying for peaceful resolutions and relief for those known and unknown to us.

Dear Jesus, as we come to the end of the liturgical year may we find some time to reflect on our Christian journey and have renewed vigour of our faith as we enter the season of Advent.

Dear Jesus, as the days shorten and wintery weather approaches may we pray for those that struggle with their physical and mental health during this time.

This week we pray for the family of Mary Pritchard, formerly of Denys Court, Olveston who died very recently (in the Glebe). She was a regular member of the 8 am Holy Communion at St Mary's. The family are holding a private cremation. We pray for those who are sick remembering those who are waiting for test results and hospital appointments. We thank-you for the life of Rodney Bisiker, holding his family and friends in our prayers. As churches together we meet for prayer every morning, Monday to Friday, from 8.30 am on ZOOM. You can join by clicking the link on the welcome page on our website: www.revsrural.com

