

Notices for Sunday 30th November

Advent 1: Hope

A bit of a long one this week, we suggest a cup of tea before you settle down to read!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Morning Communion at 10am and Advent Carols 6pm

Please join us this Sunday morning for our communion service as we enter the watching and waiting season of Advent and discover the *Hope* that is found in Jesus.

Please invite friends and family to our evening service, as we mark the start of Advent with a service of readings, reflection and music introducing our Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

OTHER SERVICES & EVENTS

Christmas Craft Afternoon, Saturday 29th November, 2pm-4pm

Drop in anytime between 2-4pm for lots of fun Christmas Crafts and festive refreshments. There will be messy crafts in the Chapter House, and some more quiet crafting available in the church. All ages welcome!

Christmas Choir – Rehearsals continue November 30th

Do you like singing and will you be available to help lead our traditional 'Carols by Candlelight' at 6pm on Sunday December 21st? If so you might like to join our Christmas choir, rehearsals continue on Sunday November 30th at 11.15am after the morning service. There will be 2 more rehearsals on Dec 7 and Dec 21. All ages and abilities are welcome, enthusiasm and commitment more important than vocal expertise!!

Woodland Working Group, Saturday 6th December, 1.30 – 4pm

Please come and help out with the maintenance of our lovely woodland site, if you are able. We are a friendly group and always open to new members as we seek to keep on top of the brambles and keep the church site in good order. No particular skills are needed, but enthusiasm and a good pair of strong gloves come in useful! Come anytime between 1.30-4pm.

Woodland Worship, Saturday 6th December at 4pm

Come and engage in the beauty of God's creation! Woodland worship is a relaxed, liturgy-based service which takes place every 1st Saturday of the month. Centred around the fire pit, the service focuses on God, creation and reflects on our impact on the world. Now it will be dark you might wish to bring a torch. Everyone is welcome.

All Together Agape, Sunday 7th December at 10am

This service will focus on the theme of 'Peace' and will be led by our children and young people! Please come along to encourage them as they lead us in worship together.

Carols on the Move, Sunday 7th December 4.30pm to 6.30pm

Please join us as we once again take our carol service around the Parish with stops at:

Moat Road Green: 4:30pm – 4:45pm

Upper Green, Brook Lane: 5pm – 5:15pm

Junction of Leconfield and Berkeley Road: 5:30pm – 5:45pm

Nanpantan Scout Hut: 5:55pm – 6.10pm.

Followed by refreshments at the Scout Hut, helping them to raise funds, please give generously. If you can't manage the full route, please join us when you can and invite friends and neighbours to come along too. Keep an eye on our notices and social media for further details. Please wrap up warmly and you might want to bring a torch! ***There will be no 6pm service in the church.***

Monday Morning Group, Emmanuel Church, Monday 8th December at 10.15am

Our next meeting is at Emmanuel on 8th December, when Cllr. Margaret Smidowicz talks about her year as Mayor of Charnwood. We start with mince pies and coffee at 10.15am and the meeting at 10.30am. All ladies and gentlemen are welcome to this and to any of our monthly meetings.

Midweek Advent Communion, Wednesday 10th December at 12 Midday

Everyone is welcome to join us for a short seasonal service of communion followed by a delicious soup lunch and festive treats. This is a great chance to worship and get to know others within a small and friendly group. Please invite friends and think if there is anyone who might welcome a lift.

Christmas at Ronald West and Badger Court

Please let Adele know if you are able to come along and support our Christmas services at Badger Court on Monday 15th at 11am and Ronald West Court on Wednesday 17th at 3pm, helping serve refreshments and chatting to residents. Offers to bring mince pies and other seasonal refreshments to RWC and help swell the numbers in the large lounge are particularly welcome!

Godly Play Introductory Day – Saturday 17th January 2025, 10am-4pm

Godly Play is an approach to deepening our connection with God through creative storytelling, with space for questions, wondering and imagination. Based on childhood spirituality with an open and natural sense of awe and wonder, Godly Play can also be enjoyed by people of all ages. You can find out more here: www.godlyplay.uk
We are pleased to be able to offer an Introductory Day, free of charge, on Saturday 17th January, 10am-4pm to anyone who may be interested in exploring this approach. There will be the opportunity to experience a Godly Play Session, followed by two sessions exploring different story genres and time to explore how/if this approach might be relevant to your context. Please bring a packed lunch, tea/coffee and light refreshments will be provided. Please sign up here if you would like to attend. [Godly Play Introductory Day - ChurchSuite Events](#).

OTHER NOTICES

Welcome to Kirsty

Our new administrator, Kirsty, has started her handover with Jasmine this week. If you see her around please give her a lovely warm welcome as she takes the reins and settles into the role.

Baubles!!

Does anyone have any purple or pink baubles (or other tree decorations in those colours) that they don't plan on using this year and are willing to lend to the church for decorating our church Christmas tree this year? We'd need them by the 12th December latest, and they will stay in church until most likely Epiphany. If you can help at all, please have a word with Katherine. Thank you.

Christmas Email and Request for Mince Pies and Shortbread

Last week we sent out our Christmas Email that has all details of all the events and services St Mary's are hosting this year. Feel free to email admin@stmaryincharnwood.org.uk for more details about anything. As usual, we would be very glad to receive donations of shop-bought mince pies and shortbread to serve at the various events. It's amazing how many we get through each year! Please leave them by the microwave in the kitchen.

Christmas tin collection for Project 5000 – and decoration!

As part of our Christmas decorations this year we will be creating a Christmas tree out of cans, tins and other long life items, throughout Advent. Please bring donations to help us make this the biggest display ever! After Christmas these items will all be donated to Project 5000.

Advent Resources from Tearfund and Leicester Diocese

Both Tearfund and our diocese have produced advent resources offering suggested activities and reflections based on the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love as we are doing. You can sign up to receive daily emails from Tearfund, and find out more information about the Diocesan Digital Advent Calendar by following these links:

<https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/advent> <https://www.leicester.anglican.org/news/diomail/>

Shirley Brown

Please pray for the friends and family of Shirley Brown for whom Adele will be leading a Service of Thanksgiving at Emmanuel Church on Thursday 4th December at 3.30pm. Everyone is welcome to the service and refreshments after.

LCP Gospel Giveaway

On Sunday 16th and Saturday 22nd November a small group went out to deliver our Christmas card and offer a copy of Lukes Gospel to all houses in Nanpantan village (down as far as the scout hut). Despite the heavy rain on the Saturday we managed to deliver a total of 24 gospels, had a handful of faith-based conversations and prayed for some people on their doorstep. We met a friendly reception at all doors answered, we all found it uplifting and worthwhile. Please pray for all those we engaged with, that seeds of faith may be sown. We intend to go out again once the weather is a little kinder to revisit the houses where we received no response and maybe venture further afield. Please seriously consider if you could help us next time, either in delivering gospels in pairs or staying behind to pray. It really is a worthwhile way of engaging with our community and nowhere near as scary as you'd think.

Messy Church Goes Wild Update

We were hugely encouraged to have a full Chapter House for our final Mossy Church! Despite it being a damp and rainy afternoon, we briefly braved the weather to make some woodland rhythms as we considered Ecclesiastes and changing seasons before coming in to think about being a new creation in Christ - what this meant for us personally and what it meant for Mossy Church becoming Messy Church Goes Wild. In a Mossy Church first, we ran out of food! God was there in that we accidentally prepared twice as much as we had originally intended, so hopefully nobody went home hungry. Please do join us for the launch of Messy Church Goes Wild on Saturday 10th January to encounter Jesus differently, through crafts, activities, conversations and a shared meal. We will have a range of inside and outside activities and everyone of all ages is welcome - talk to Hazel or Helena if you have any questions or suggestions. You can give to our Start Up fundraiser online: [Messy Church Goes Wild · ChurchSuite Donate](#), and there's a cash collection next to the fundraising display in the Chapter House.

Treasurer's Update

At our recent Dedication Service, David Martin, church treasurer gave an update on our finances and thanked everyone for their generous giving. He encouraged us all to please review our regular giving to offset rising costs and the deficit we expect at end of year. You can read David's update [here](#).

Tithe Charities – Advocates needed

At PCC this week we agreed our 11 charities for next year would be Inter Care, Hope Foundation against Cancer, The Bridge, BACA, Laura Centre, CMS (Ben and Katy Ray), Link Dioceses, Hoveraid, STEPS, SOaR and A Rocha. In addition there will be annual collections for the Children's Society, Tearfund and Christian Aid. We are still in need of advocates for STEPS and BACA. Please have a chat with Adele if you would like to know more about becoming an advocate, the main requirement is to present an annual update with prayer pointers.

Easy Fundraising – free donations for St Mary's!

We have recently signed up with Easy Fundraising, a scheme that donates money to charities when consumers purchase goods through their app or web browser extension. This scheme doesn't cost the person making the purchase any money and there are loads of retailers (over 8000!) involved, including department stores, individual brands, travel and hotel websites, and even most supermarkets. So while we try not to encourage overconsumption, if you are making a purchase anyway please think of us and check whether the retailer you are buying from has signed up to the scheme.

You can sign up using your computer or by downloading the app on your phone. Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk to create an account and support us by selecting 'St Mary's Church, Nanpantan' as your cause, or download the Easy Fundraising app on your phone from the app store.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Badger Court Charity Coffee Morning, Friday 5th December at 10am

You are invited to join the residents and staff at Badger Court for their charity coffee morning in aid of Loros on Friday 5th December from 10am. There will be Tombola, Raffle, Cakes, Books, Guess the number of chocolates in the jar, good conversation and refreshments. Admission £1.

Christian Aid Lunch, Loughborough Baptist Church, Sunday 7th December at 12.45pm

All are welcome to attend and share in a simple soup and mince pie lunch. Booking not essential but if you can, please let Jean know at jiabates@gmail.com. All proceeds from donations go to Christian Aid. If you would like to donate to Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal, or just find out more about their work, please visit: www.tinyurl.com/LboroCACHristmas

Leicestershire Police Beat Surgery, St Mary's Nanpantan, Monday 8th December, 3.30pm-4.30pm

All are welcome to visit Leicestershire Police Beat Surgery in St Mary's Chapter House to ask them questions or receive news about what the police are up to in our local area.

Global Carol Service, St Pauls Church, Oadby, Saturday 13 December, 5pm-6.30pm

The Diocese of Leicester's Global Carol Service takes place in just a few weeks and everyone is warmly welcome to attend. Their Intercultural Worshipping Communities invite you to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with a vibrant blend of music, language, and community. This event will feature choir singing, readings, and prayers reflecting various cultures. Experience carols sung in multiple languages as all come together to tell the Christmas story that unites hearts across all nations. After the service, enjoy warm fellowship and taste global flavours. Entry is free.

Youth Alpha, Starting Sunday January 11th at St David's in Coalville

Do you know any young people (11-18) who are curious about faith? **Youth Alpha is running at St David's in Coalville on Sunday evenings from January 11th until March 15th.** [Watch the video here](#) and talk to Rev Dave if you'd like to know more!

Friends of Launde Abbey Updates

Information about the Launde Abbey Programme of retreats, quiet days and concerts for 2025 can be found here: <https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/events/>

ADVOCATE SLOT

In November we are supporting **A Rocha UK**, a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment.

Pray pointers for A Rocha:

- Give thanks that there are now early 20% of churches in England and Wales registered with Eco Church.
- Pray for those that are registered but yet to receive an award to see caring for creation as a priority and have the confidence to make small steps in the right direction as part of their worship and witness
- Pray for the 25 target places and species that are struggling with the effects of climate change habitat loss and pollution ask that the recording of these species may lead to some solutions to prevent decline.
- Give thanks that money was raised for Foxearth meadow towards the purchase of scythes to help us manage the meadows effectively. Pray for the newly-trained scything volunteers that they can use them safely and manage the meadow in the best way for the wildlife.