

New Life



St Mary the Virgin

The Monthly
Magazine for the
Parishes of
St Mary the Virgin,
Fen Ditton,
St Peter, Horningsea
and
All Saints, Teversham

November
2025



All Saints



St Peter

50p

**THE PARISHES OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FEN DITTON,
ST PETER, HORNINGSEA AND ALL SAINTS, TEVERSHAM**

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Material intended for publication in *New Life* should be with
the editor by the 15th of each month.

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Dear friends,

In November the church changes colour from the long Green season that follows Trinity Sunday. We will be starting on the first weekend of November with Purple – the colour of penitence and sorrow – as we commemorate All Souls’ Day and remember in special services our loved ones who have died. We then move to Red, used both at Pentecost (recalling the fire of the Holy Spirit) and on the feasts of martyrs, reminding us of the blood they shed – as is also recalled by the poppies that are the main symbol of this Sunday, Remembrance Day.

The month continues with reminders in our readings of the Kingdom of God and that this kingdom does not come without cost and sacrifice. The short Red season ends with the feast of Christ the King, a celebration of the crucified and risen Lord who leads us into his way of peace, justice and self-sacrifice.

And then a new year begins as we unite our thoughts of that coming kingdom with its inauguration through the coming into the world of the One we celebrate at Christmas. Advent begins and we will light our first candle in the Advent wreath at our united service in Fen Ditton.

I love the overlay of the Christian year with the natural rhythms of the seasons. As I write this, the leaves of the trees are beginning to descend, and by the time you read this many of the branches will be bare. Like the tortoise we are looking after in our home much of the natural world has slowed down and is falling asleep, preserving its energies for when the warmth returns in the spring. There’s a bit of me that would like to join them – but then I’d miss Christmas!

For Christians death is a falling asleep – Rest in Peace we pray, and in olden days they laid their loved ones in the churchyard with a headstone and footstone as though they were in bed. And they laid them west–east so that when they awoke they would be facing the rising sun. You don’t have to believe that literally to see the power and significance of it. Winter in the end gives way to spring, the night gives way to morning.

Some people are depressed about growing old – and some, with diffi-

cult physical conditions, may have a good deal to feel depressed about. But I also see the beauty of ageing. As through the year I have looked out on to the trees we planted three years ago in our newish garden, every season brings joy at their beauty and loveliness – the blossom of spring, the vigorous growth of summer, the changing colours of autumn and the bare shapeliness of winter.

Every season has a beauty, just as every human age does. And winter reminds us that even when life seems to have been stripped from us, a new season of life awaits. Such is our Advent Hope.

Sincerely

Nick



A Time to Remember

We will be having ‘**A Time to Remember**’ services at Horningsea on **Saturday 1 November** and at Teversham on **Sunday 2 November**, both at 3pm.

Fen Ditton has a **Requiem Eucharist** as the main Sunday morning service on the 2nd (at 10.30am).

You are invited to bring a flower or small posy to lay in an ‘Easter garden’ and the names of loved ones (which will be read out). You may also like to light a candle on the grave of those you are especially remembering. We will have a supply of candles for that.



Remembrance Day

All three churches will be observing the two minutes’ silence at their respective war memorials on **Sunday 9 November**, with a service in church either before or after (see the back page services schedule).



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Our Parishes

If you would like to discuss baptism or thanksgiving for the birth of a child, the reading of marriage banns and weddings, or arrangements for a funeral at any of our churches, please contact Nick, our Rector/Vicar (see inside cover for contact details).



Our thanks go to Val Williams who kindly left flowers to help decorate the Parish Church at Fen Ditton for Harvest Thanksgiving.

Blue Skies Big Band

The rearranged concert by the **Blue Skies Big Band** will be at All Saints Teversham on **Saturday 8 November** at 7pm. Tickets are £10 (at the door, or from Ian Hunt, 01223 292388, 07784 318124).



Study evening

Our November Three Parishes **study evening** will be led by Nick on **‘The Book of Revelation – how should we read it?’** It will be on **Wednesday 26 November** (just in time for Advent) at 7.30pm – venue to be confirmed.



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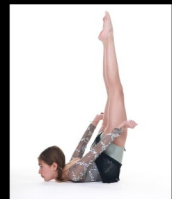


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Ancient Shepherds' Book Club

Please contact Carol on 07941 492271 for further information or just join us at The Plough, where we currently meet.



Wed, 5th November, 7.30pm, 'The Last Days of Night' by Graham Moore

Wed, 3rd December, 7.30pm, 'Chocolat' by Joanne Harris

Christmas Carol Service Choir

If you are interested in joining the choir at Fen Ditton for the Christmas Carol Service on 21st December, please be in touch with Peter Wadl (peter.wadl@3parishes.org). The service is at 6pm on the 21st, and there will be a rehearsal on the day from 4–5pm, and another the previous Friday (Dec 19th) from 6.30–7.30pm in church which will be compulsory for all singers to attend. There will also be rehearsals on Friday 5th and 12th December, 6.30–7.30pm; ideally everyone needs to have done a minimum two out of the three Friday rehearsals before the run-through on the day.

FEN DITTON 200 CLUB

The lucky winners for **November** were:

£50 Barry Eady (182)

£10 Laurice Suess (49)

£20 George Devine (109)

£10 James Burt (60)

£10 Sarah Beeson (95)



Remembrance Day service in Horningsea

On Sunday 9 November at 10.15 in St Peter's Church and 10.45 at the War Memorial in the Jubilee Gardens.

The annual service of Remembrance for those who fought and lost their lives in War will take place as usual in Horningsea. Representatives of all the Village societies will lay wreaths of poppies, the Last Post will be sounded on the trumpet, the names of the fallen from the village will be read and this year we will include James Baker, the USAF pilot who died on Quy Fen 80 years ago. John Wilson has researched the stories of each of these men and this year he has asked that names should be read by younger people in the village. If you live in the house where they lived, if you are of the age of those who went to war, if your parents, grandparents or great-grandparents took part, if your family came as refugees to escape the conflicts ... would you be willing to read a name? If so please contact Lindsay by email at churchwardenhoringsea@gmail.com. The 80th Anniversary of VE and VJ Day reminds us of the hardships suffered by our parents, grandparents or great-grandparents. It is also an opportunity to remember those who are still suffering from wars and conflicts all over the world in 2025 – and to give thanks for those who work for peaceful solutions to these conflicts.



Christmas is coming ... so plans for Horningsea's Candlelit Carol Service are in hand for Sunday 14 December at 6pm

Liz Harrison will be asking for help in decorating the church with the hundreds of candles needed to fill the church with light for the Carol Service. She will put a message on Facebook with a day/time for a working party or contact her on lizhakeyman@hotmail.com to offer help. Do we have volunteers to play in a young person's orchestra this year? If you would like to play or help organise this please let Lindsay know on churchwardenhoringsea@gmail.com.

Liz will also be organising the Horningsea Advent Windows – so keep an eye out for more information.

There will be a Very Short Nativity – the day and time will be confirmed after consultation with families of our youngest children.



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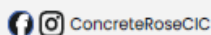
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£3.00 per person donation

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2025

9th	Jan	Village Hall	3rd	Jul	Recreation Ground*
6th	Feb	Village Hall	7th	Aug	Recreation Ground*
6th	Mar	Village Hall	4th	Sep	Village Hall
3rd	Apr	Village Hall	2nd	Oct	Village Hall
1st	May	Village Hall	6th	Nov	Village Hall
5th	Jun	Recreation Ground*	4th	Dec	Village Hall

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FEN DITTON GARDENING CLUB

The first meeting of the gardening club year was the **AGM and Social**, which took place on Tuesday 28th October, at Fen Ditton Village Hall. We were happy to welcome past and new members and chatted over wine, cheese, biscuits and delicious homemade chutney.

Amy Cudmore remains Chair of the club, alongside Tony Wieser who continues as Treasurer. The committee shared the highlights of the past gardening club year and informed members of upcoming plans for 2025/26.

After 11 years on the committee, Sarah Beeson stepped down at the AGM. We would like to thank Sarah for her hard work and dedication to the club over the years. She will be missed from the committee.

We always welcome new members.

Members range from those with a passionate interest in gardening and allotment growing, to those who enjoy visiting gardens and coming to listen to our varied and interesting speakers.

We meet monthly (from October–April), on the fourth Tuesday of the month and listen to some varied and interesting speakers. The programme changes during the summer months and includes weekend garden visits, a picnic, and a plant sale.

Membership is **£10** for the year. This can be paid on the night of the AGM in cash or via BACS. Guest price on the night £3.

Other dates for your diary:

Tuesday 25th November: Peter Jackson – ‘Attracting Bees and Butterflies to your garden’ (All welcome)

Saturday 6th December: Christmas Party (members only)

Tuesday 27th January 2026: Charlotte Waters – Kings College Gardens (All welcome)

For all enquiries about Fen Ditton Gardening Club, please visit **<http://fdgc.uk>** or email **c@fdgc.uk**.

We can also be found on Facebook at **<https://www.facebook.com/FenDittonGardeningClub>**



BIBLE AND ART DAILY: A New Resource from the Visual Commentary on Scripture

The medieval Franciscan friar St Bonaventure wrote that investigation needs to be imbued with wonder, and learning with love, if it is to bear fruit in our lives. In the 21st century, so much of both our reading and our looking seems to be done at high-speed, with the main purpose of getting information fast. What if we could add some wonderment to our investigations and some love to our learning?

Our Visual Commentary on Scripture (TheVCS.org) has for nearly a decade been bringing together deeply thoughtful scholars in theology and art history to interpret scripture through art.

And over the past year, with the help of those experts, we've hand-picked a treasury of artistic gems for our users to explore. They are grouped into week-long series of seven, each series exploring a particular theological theme, the work of an individual artist, an artistic medium, or a biblical character.

It's called Bible and Art Daily, it's free, and it will be mailed straight to your inbox every day for a whole year (with a further year in preparation!). Every short commentary is also available as an audio track, so that, if you choose to, you can focus entirely on the artwork while listening to the words that accompany it.

So please sign up (here's the link: <https://thevcs.org/bible-and-art-daily>), and do tell your friends about this new resource. We hope you enjoy this daily opportunity to slow down and be reflective for a short while, as you discover new connections between art and scripture—investigating with wonder, and learning with love. *Ben Quash*



Real Advent Calendars

The Meaningful Chocolate Company has produced Real Advent calendars containing scenes from the Christmas Story, a lovely picture book as well as really good chocolate. Increasingly, very sadly, young people and their families do not know who Jesus is, nor what happened at the first Christmas. This is a well-produced calendar which can be given to youngsters, friends, colleagues or donated to the Food Bank or Besom. The calendars are £5 each and Jennie Pratt has 36 of them available. Please contact Jennie if you would like one or more.



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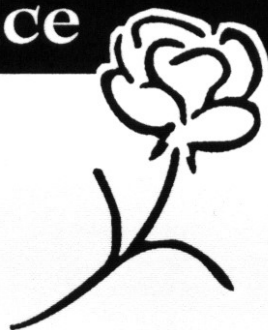
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Once again, the Besom in Histon and Impington aim to supply Christmas hampers to all the clients they have dealt with in the previous twelve months – around 100 so far. Besom request contributions from all the churches in the areas that have received assistance from them during the year – including the Three Parishes.

The Besom in Histon and Impington collect most household reusable goods from congregations outside Cambridge city. Then they receive requests for goods and projects, such as garden clearance for people in need, through professionals such as social workers, housing officers, NHS staff and others. The Besom response, providing the goods and services required, comes mainly from volunteers in churches in the surrounding area.

Besom are asking for some specific items for hampers if congregations are able to help, and these should please be high quality goods, not ‘Value’ range items. As in previous years, the 3 churches will each have a box in November to receive any donations you can contribute – your churchwardens will also place some shopping lists in each church. A list is also included in this copy of New Life.

The final date for collection of goods will be Sunday 30th November. The boxes and contributions will all be collected after the service that day and taken to Besom to pack the hampers. If you would like to help, please contact Jennie Pratt.

Besom also welcome monetary donations to the Besom account if that is simpler for you:

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Items please for single clients, couples or families, in date till 2026, not homemade and please avoid alcohol.

Thank you very much.



Saturday 1 November at 3pm at St Peter's Church Horningsea: "A Time to Remember"

If you have a family member or friend who you would like to remember, then come along to this quiet reflective service. There will be a chance to light a candle and put a flower in a vase in their memory. They may be someone who died in the last year or so, or who died many years ago who you remember with affection. It is always a very moving service.



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650 years of the Archdiocese of Lwów Celebrated under the Shadow of War

November is a time to remember our war dead. But what of those places that still lie under the shadow of war and how does the Church support attempts at reconciliation and forgiveness?

On the 6th of September 2025 the Archdiocese of Lwów marked 650 years since its establishment via Papal Bull by Pope Gregory XI in 1375. The second oldest Archbishopric in Poland after Gniezno, it was founded as the Diocese of Galicia under King Kazimierz III Wielki and has played a key role in Polish history – notably during the Swedish Deluge when King Jan II Kazimierz Waza entrusted Poland to the Blessed Virgin to defend the Commonwealth as Queen of Poland. The heroic city of Lwów held back Tatars, Cossacks, Ottomans, retained its Polish spirit under Austro-Hungary, and held off the Soviet Army under Stalin, allowing relief to Warsaw in 1920. Lwów remained Polish until torn away at Yalta into the Ukrainian SSR. The Polish population was deported into what became Western Poland under Potsdam. The hurt of losing homes, churches, graveyards, and cultural treasures lingers for many exiles.

The city now lies under the shadow of yet another war. Leading the Archdiocese is Archbishop Mieczysław Mokrzycki. Growing up 40 miles from Lwów in South East Poland, from 1996 he was personal secretary to Pope Saint John Paul II and was with the Pope when he died in 2005. After time serving Pope Benedict XVI he returned to Lwów and was installed as Archbishop in 2008. If dealing with the usual Archdiocesan administration is a responsibility, imagine this at a time of war. In his letters he writes of the difficult times and the sad atmosphere over the city. Despite being close to Poland the city is not spared from missile and drone attacks causing blackouts, fires, death and fear. But in Christ there is always hope.

Reconciliation and peace during and after war are easy to say but hard to achieve. Despite challenges, the Archbishop has striven to heal divisions. When Ukraine banned Russian, curtailing other languages too, he supported Russian speakers fleeing the war to Lwów against hostility from Ukrainian speakers, stating that banning Russian despite widespread use leads to marginalisation in society, “the war has poisoned hearts”, instead calling for language tolerance. He defended the Mass being said in Polish, stating that while the Church serves all the

faithful many Latin Rite Catholics are of Polish heritage and had a right to their language. He has spoken out against persecution of the faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate (a church whose activities are now banned) saying its faithful are not to be blamed for the actions of the Kremlin. There are also sometimes difficult political relations with the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, who also retain some Latin churches confiscated under communism, leaving Latin congregations holding services in churchyards, as well as state efforts blocking Polish initiatives to renovate or rebuild Latin Churches destroyed between 1939 and 1991.

The Archbishop has also confronted the legacy and political relativisation of the WW2 Wołyń genocide – the torture and murder of over 120,000 Polish civilians by Ukrainians and the continued use of the red-black OUN-UPA flag in Ukrainian politics. In a Homily at the 2013 Wołyń memorial in Łuck, Archbishop Mokrzycki spoke of how arrogance and self-confidence suppress self-reflection and conscience, how man falls to evil when he turns from God, how a blind eye turned to evil perpetuates iniquity, and how the truth must be spoken. He recalled the Prodigal Son being afraid to make a sincere confession to his father only to be welcomed back with open arms, commenting that a person who embarks on the path of reconciliation can have constant assurance of God's presence with them. On atonement: *"It seems that much human behaviour stems from the prideful belief that no one and nothing will hold them accountable ... Revenge still governs human thinking and behaviour. ... we evaluate others in the categories of "friend or foe," ... in this "black and white" world, there is no place for generosity, companionship, a sense of solidarity with others, or tolerance. Christian forgiveness gives a chance to start all over again, because it does not deny anyone, does not know revenge, teaches respect for others, a human perception of one's neighbour, despite his negatives and mistakes. Forgiveness is the essence of Christianity, because it is the meaning of the salvation of a sinful person from a merciful God. But all evil requires redemption, correction of what can be corrected, retribution for evil. And shouldn't the form of atonement for harm be the commemoration of the victims ... Because they still await proper graves, ... crosses at the sites of execution, the discovery of traces of their lives, the preservation of their names They have the right to our full remembrance of them, just as they have the right to our prayer"*.

When faced with linguistic and political tensions, inter-denominational difficulties, historical hatreds fanned by the politics of a current war – how can there be peace? How can poisoned hearts be healed? Cardinal Crescenzo Sepe, the Papal envoy on the occasion of the Mass on the 650th anniversary celebrations, said in his Homily: *Following Saint John Paul II, I would like to repeat the words he once said in Lwów: “Duc in altum – sail into the deep.” I urge you, like him, not to be afraid to follow Christ, despite historical and political difficulties. Let us cherish faith, despite numerous difficulties, and let us build the future in the spirit of love, peace, and unity. ... May the skies of Lwów and Ukraine open to receive the desired peace, not missiles or drones that bring only death and destruction. In all this, may the Mother of Divine Grace, the Beautiful Star of the city of Lwów, guide you. It is difficult to walk alone, so walk with Mary, for She, the Mater Ecclesiae, the Mother of the Church, is a model of humility, obedience to God’s Word, and service. Finally, Brothers and Sisters, I convey to you the blessing of His Holiness Leo XIV, who blesses Lwów and the entire Metropolis and who, in unity with Saint John Paul II, entrusts you to the care of the Mother of God and reminds you: “The Lord is with you! Do not be afraid!”*



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As it happened, Pam and I had, way back in 2024, for the ninth time, booked to holiday in an amazingly situated cottage on the western edge of Lindisfarne for a fortnight. So we were able to revisit places we had enjoyed together with our recent parish pilgrimage group. We felt hugely blessed to have the luxury of more time on the lovely island, and the trip turned out to be a series of little adventures!

First, this was our first long journey in our newly acquired electric car; so anxieties about how/where we would charge were quite a preoccupation in the days before: but we need not have worried. An initial full charge drawn down at Anglesey Abbey (yes, really, 12 charge points!) saw us to Newark, where we had earlier made our first pilgrimage stop. A fast charge there enabled us to get to Durham, where the car park of a health club provided us with charge to get us to the island. Those who pilgrimaged with us may, like us, have noticed there are actually four charging points on the island, and at high tide, when the island is near-deserted, absolutely no competition for a plug-in point!

On arrival, one of the first things we do is to catch up on island news via the local monthly Holy Island News. This always gives a fascinating glimpse into island life and is an excellent advertisement for the Christian presence in the island. Marygate House, our pilgrimage accommodation, the United Reform St Cuthbert's chapel, and the Vicar of the parish church all contribute, each providing news and events for the wider community interests as well as to pilgrimage groups.

However, what caught my eye was an article by the island's astrophotographer, Max Whitby, another regular contributor. In the August edition he bemoaned yet another cloudy night in the island, making him turn to his telescope in Chile! My curiosity was piqued, and through the local Vicar Canon Sarah Hills, I made contact with Max and was invited to 'go and see'. Max's set up was amazing. He has two telescopes: a very sophisticated one in his living room, overlooking the castle, and an internet link to a larger version of the same telescope in a shed-like facility housing 10 privately owned telescopes, high up in the Andes. He has produced some stunning amateur astrophotographs and you can get a glimpse of them, if you are reading the digital form of 'New Life', by clicking on <https://www.thevisibleuniverse.com/> or by typing that link into your computer's browser. Pam says I floated into church for the harvest festival communion, having spent an hour being given an international astronomy tour before the service.

On a very different tack, we were on the island for the early part of the migration period. Many shore-living incomers and Brent Geese and a highlight: a viewing on two consecutive days of a murmuration of a cloud of small sea birds. Having little birding knowledge, I asked AI what they might be. Dunlin, it opined. However, I have learned to fact-check any AI information. So when I saw a man carrying a huge burden of birding equipment in the street later, I asked whether they might be Dunlin. 'Oh no!' he replied, clearly delighted at being able to put me right, 'They were Golden Plover, there are several hundred about on the foreshore'. I was VERY grateful as I had written a poem which described murmurations as a 'small miracle of creation', so to have revealed my ignorance to those many birders on the island would have been very counter-productive.

But it was another theme that provoked a poem that tied our two visits together. I have always been very taken by the poles that lead foot pilgrims across the sands and after pondering the idea for several years, this visit enabled me to produce '*Chare End*'. I hope you like it. (Chare is a medieval word apparently meaning a narrow passage or a tight corner.)

Chare End

A narrow passage once greeted pilgrims	Yet the poles still stand,
who had risked being caught by a tide,	to guide those
to find peace and healing	who would tread
on this thin and holy isle.	a similar path

to Aidan, Cuthbert,
and their monks.

Now a car park name,
where thousands begin a brief walk
to castle first,
then possibly to priory;
for it is the militaristic
symbol of might
that attracts, above the holy,
reflecting the combative capitalism
of today.

Maybe in those poles
lies the true hope
for a world criss-crossed
by maniacal motorways.



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REPAIRS

All in the month of...

It was:

175 years ago, on 19th November 1850 that Alfred, Lord Tennyson, became Poet Laureate of the UK (until 1892).

125 years ago, on 22nd November 1900 that Arthur Sullivan, British composer, died.

100 years ago, on 10th November 1925 that Richard Burton, Welsh stage and film actor was born.

Also 100 years ago, on 27th November 1925 that Ernie Wise, TV comedian and actor, was born.

90 years ago, on 6th November 1935 that Britain's Hawker Hurricane fighter plane made its first flight.

80 years ago, on 16th November 1945 that UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, was founded.

75 years ago, on 2nd November 1950 that George Bernard Shaw, Irish playwright and literary critic, died.

65 years ago, on 8th November 1960, that John F Kennedy was elected as the 35th President of the USA.

60 years ago, on 9th November 1965 that the death penalty was abolished in the UK.

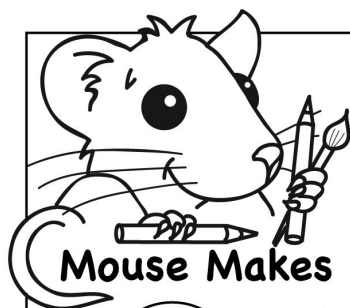
50 years ago, on 3rd November 1975 that Britain's first North Sea oil pipeline was officially opened.

40 years ago, on 15th November 1985 that the Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed by the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Irish President Garret Fitzgerald.

25 years ago, on 9th November 2000 that Eric Morley, TV host, died.

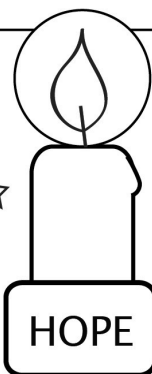
20 years ago, on 30th November 2005 that John Sentamu became Archbishop of York (until 2020).

10 years ago, on 13th November 2015 that the Paris Attacks took place. 130 people were killed and 416 injured.

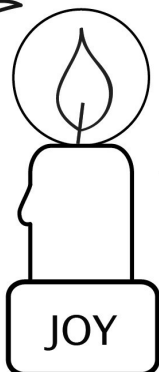


LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

Advent Sunday this year falls on 30th November.
ADVENT is a time to celebrate the ARRIVAL of Jesus, God's Son, our Saviour.
We look forward with HOPE, we give thanks for God's LOVE and the PEACE and JOY we have in Jesus.



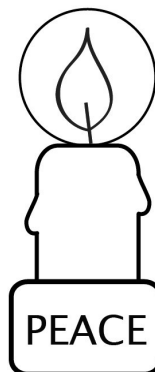
Read:
Isaiah 40:5
What shall be revealed?



Read:
LUKE 2:10-11
Who is 'God's news of great joy' for?



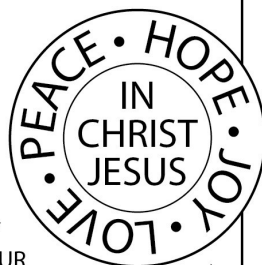
Read:
John 3:16
How did God show He loves us?



Read:
Romans 5:1-2
Through who do we have peace with God?

L G L O R Y E M P R O M I S E
S O K J Y A A R R I V A L W F
A D V E N T G O O D N E W S O
V P L S V L I R P S V P C A R
I E I U I O F C H R I S T H T
O A G S U V T M E S S A G E O
U C H O P E O P C A N D L E L
R E T U R N J O Y T W D B E D

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MESSAGE • PROMISE • PROPHECY • FORETOLD • JESUS • SAVIOUR
CHRIST • GIFT • GOOD NEWS • RETURN • CANDLE • LIGHT



THE THREE PARISHES SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2025

1 November <i>All Saints Day</i>	 ST MARY'S FEN DITTON	 ST PETER'S HORNINGSEA	 ALL SAINTS TEVERSHAM
2 November <i>All Souls Day</i> <i>4th Sunday before Advent</i>	10.30am Requiem Eucharist	'A Time to Remember' 3.00pm	3.00pm (N.B. earlier time) 'A Time to Remember'
9 November <i>3rd Sunday before Advent</i> <i>Remembrance Day</i>	10.00am Remembrance Day Service <i>beginning in church and ending at war memorial</i>	10.15am Remembrance Day Service <i>moving to the war memorial at 10.45am</i>	10.50am Remembrance Day Service <i>beginning at the war memorial and then moving into church</i>
16 November <i>2nd Sunday before Advent</i> <i>Safeguarding Sunday</i>	8.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) 10.30am All-age Worship		10.30am Holy Communion
19 November		8.30pm Compline (Night Prayer)	
23 November <i>Christ the King</i>		10.30am United Holy Communion	
30 November <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	10.30am United Holy Communion		