

News for the Pews

Date: 11th December 2022

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent



News and Views

It has been a good week. It started with a visit to the Stockton Church Christmas Tree Festival. The trees, provided by various village organisations, were each very creative and unique. The trees from the WI and Beavers were voted the favourites. A huge thank you to everyone who helped organise that – it was a great village event. Then a quick dash to Napton for their Christmas Cheer, carol singing and a prayer before the Christmas Tree lights were switched on. Another successful community get-together. On Monday I had a long conversation with Dan Corlett, the minister for the Rural Mission Hub. He was very impressed with what we are doing across our group of parishes. On Tuesday I went to Stockton School for their Early Years (as young as 2) Nativity play. What cute little super-stars they are! On Wednesday, Shirley, Karen and I organised Christingle workshops for 80+ children at Priors School. They were all extremely polite and engaged with our conversations. Then in the evening, Napton Church was full of Brownies, the school orchestra and lots of parents, grandparents and friends for the Christingle service. Generous donations were presented to Helen on behalf of the PCC from the Napton Cycle Ride and the Napton PTA bonfire event. This is what it's all about – the church, school and village working together. On Thursday we celebrated Dave's 70th birthday and have the whole family coming for the weekend.

Events for the week

Monday 12th December – Napton School Christmas end of term service at 9.45am in church

Monday 12th December – Napton PCC meeting at 7pm at Pen-y-Bryn

Wednesday 14th December – Stockton PCC meeting at 7pm in church

Thursday 15th December – the ARC School Christmas end of term service at 9.30am in church

Friday 16th December – Priors School Christmas end of term service at 12noon in church

Friday 16th December – Stockton School Christmas end of term service at 2.30pm in church

Saturday 17th December – Lower Shuckburgh Christmas Fair from 2pm – 4pm in church (see poster)

Saturday 17th December – Members from Stockton church and friends are singing carols in the Crown, Nelson Club and Football Club, leaving church at 6.50pm. Anyone is welcome to join us!

Sunday 18th December – Messy Christingle from 4pm – 5.30pm in Stockton Church

Sunday 18th December – Priors Marston Carol Service at 6.30pm in church

Looking ahead

Wednesday 21st December – Celtic Winter Solstice Celebration at 7pm in Napton churchyard (see poster)

Sunday 1st January – New Year's Day Gathering at 10.30am in St. Michael's Church, Stockton

Services next Sunday 18th December – 4th Sunday of Advent:

9am – BCP Holy Communion in St. Mary's Church, Priors Hardwick

10.30am – CW Holy Communion in St. Lawrence's Church, Napton

Bible readings for the week are: Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1:18 to end

And finally

On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, our focus is on John the Baptist and his call for us to repent and to prepare for Jesus' return when everything will be brought to fulfilment, the earth will be restored, bodies made new, and all sorrow and sighing banished. Let us pray: "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."

God bless,
Gillian

(For more details of events and diary dates, see our website: www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk or the parish magazines)