

News for the Pews

Date: 25th December 2022

Sunday: Christmas Day!



News and Views

Happy Christmas everyone! This week has been a whirlwind of Christmas Fairs (well done and thank you to everyone who supported the fair at Lower Shuckburgh – you helped raise an amazing £550), Carolling around the pubs and clubs of Stockton (that was such a lot of fun – they all made us so welcome!), Messy Christingle with lots of new families, preparing Christmas lunch for 30 people in Stockton Church and various Carol Services, including the beautiful candles at Priors Marston, the Young Farmers at Wormleighton and the festive carollers at Napton. A special thank you to those who stood in for me at very short notice when my voice finally gave up!

I hope Christmas is all you expect it to be and that you manage to find an opportunity to sing with the angels and worship at the manger with the shepherds as heaven comes down to earth.

Looking ahead

Tuesday 3rd January – Family lunch in Stockton Church from 12noon

Wednesday 4th January – Priors Marston PCC meeting at 2pm at Plum Tree Cottage

Tuesday 10th January – Memorial service for Margaret Fell at 11.30am at St. Lawrence's Church, Napton

Service on Sunday 1st January:

10.30am – CW Holy Communion for the New Year in St. Michael's Church, Stockton

Bible readings to be confirmed

Services on Sunday 8th January – Epiphany

9am – BCP Holy Communion at St. Peter's, Wormleighton

10.30am – CW Holy Communion at St. Leonard's, Priors Marston

10.30am – Morning Worship at St. Lawrence's, Napton

10.30am – Methodist-led Covenant Service with Communion at St. Michael's, Stockton

5pm – BCP Evensong at St. Mary's, Priors Hardwick

Bible readings are Isaiah 60:1-6 and Matthew 2:1-12

And finally

Let us pray: "Lord, Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your Kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say "Come Lord Jesus!" [Henri Nouwen - a Dutch Catholic priest, professor, writer and theologian, 1932-1996.]

And the wonderful Christmas blessing: "May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas. Amen."

God bless,

Gillian

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

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