

28th November 2021

Dementia
 friendly church

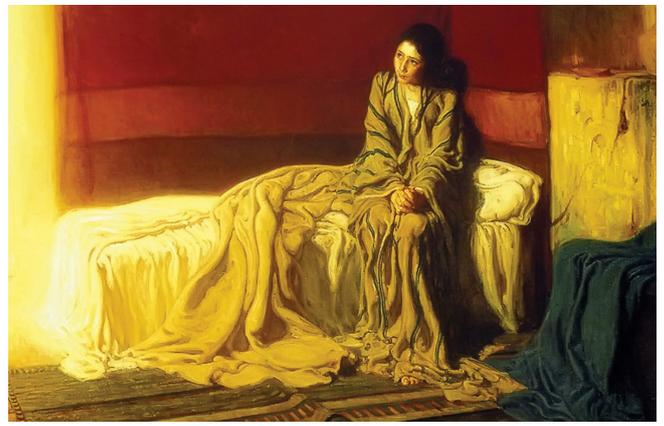
Michael Moffa; he knows how to upset people! He is facing a fine of up to \$1,000 for decorating his home with Christmas lights in November. Oh, the distress, the horror! Well, he is in Florida. Here, we can already see in many local shops, homes and town centres that the decorations are up, and lights are on, off, on, off... The build up to Christmas is in full swing and the tills are ringing.

Amidst all this mounting excitement, the Church's calendar starts a new year with Advent. It can be a time when we feel unsure about how we should observe it. A time of partying and celebrating, caught up in all the pre-Christmas festivities, or, a more solemn time of reflection and prayer, preparing for Jesus' return? Are we to be party-goers or party-poopers? What do you think? Can we cope with the tension of these two aspects of Advent in 2021?

Today, we will hear in our services the Collect for Advent. It is wonderful piece of writing, and a magnificent prayer. Listen out for the contrasts: darkness and light, now and the last day, mortal life and life immortal. And, at the heart of it all, the great mystery of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, Son of God, who *came to us in great humility* and yet *shall come again in his glorious majesty*. When read, the words, maybe familiar to our ears, will pass in a flash, almost unnoticed. It is a prayer that is worth revisiting and considering in more detail. [You can find the words here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/common-material/collects-and-post-19>]

I don't think this really answers the question about how we should observe Advent, except to say that, for me, there are two sides to Advent, and I will gladly embrace both of them. Amidst all the busyness before Christmas, I pray that we will all find the time, the space, and the quiet to reflect on the deep meanings of Advent. To help me, I will be using Graham Kendrick's song, *Meekness and Majesty*, as an Advent theme song. Do you have a song/piece of music that you could use?

Rad



Collect for Advent Sunday

Almighty God,
 give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
 and to put on the armour of light,
 now in the time of this mortal life,
 in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
 that on the last day,
 when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
 to judge the living and the dead,
 we may rise to the life immortal;
 through him who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Messy Church Needs You!



We're delighted with the way that our Messy Church has been going since it's re-launch in October, in its new time slot of 3.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month. It has been lovely to see many more children and families and lots of new faces. We now really need to expand our catering team, so that it doesn't fall to the same people each month and we can have a number of alternating teams. Can you whip up a simple spag bol, or rustle up some chicken nuggets? If so, we could use your culinary skills! If you can help, or would like to find out more, please talk to Julia Farrant (639582) or Ali Doulton (01948 780168).

Christmas Choir Practice

Next rehearsal is on Thursday 2nd December at 7.30pm in church. This will now include gentlemen, altos *and* sopranos.



Christmas Gifts for the Women's Refuge

We are again supporting the Refuge in Stoke, as they are so appreciative of our support. Please bring: toys, books, games and chocs/sweets for children; and toiletries, hats, gloves, scarves, and any luxury items for mums to the 10.30am service on 12th December. Thank you.

Regular Services

Sunday 9.00am BCP Communion Service (CHURCH)

Sunday 10.30am Morning Worship (CHURCH)

This service is also available on Zoom

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09)

[pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09)

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Readings : Isaiah 6. 1-8 Luke 1: 26-38

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

[pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09)

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday 10.00am Holy Communion (CHURCH)

You can also join our Zoom services on your landline using any of the following numbers, with the meeting IDs and passwords above: 0203 481 5237 / 0203 481 5240
0131 460 1196 / 0203 051 2874

Advent Carol Service

Advent Carol Service at St Swithun's Cheswardine this Sunday 28th November at 6.00pm All welcome. If you'd like to join the 'scratch choir' for this service, there will be a rehearsal at 4.30pm that afternoon. Tea and cake will be served between the rehearsal and the service.

Advent Complines on Zoom

Wednesday evenings 7.00pm for 4 weeks during Advent, beginning on 1st December.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88127815715?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88127815715?pwd=K3V3WDdmbks3bHVCV1o3S3AwaGtFQT09)

[pwd=K3V3WDdmbks3bHVCV1o3S3AwaGtFQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88127815715?pwd=K3V3WDdmbks3bHVCV1o3S3AwaGtFQT09)

Meeting ID: 881 2781 5715 Passcode: 236230

or dial in on 0131 460 1196

0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240

Music Recital

An evening of song with George Fradley (piano) and Harry Fradley (singer), will be held at St Mary's on Saturday 4th December at 7.00pm. Refreshments will be available during the interval with proceeds and donations going to Christians Against Poverty in Market Drayton. Tickets are available from BroSys computer shop in town or via this link <https://jkartists.co.uk/aneveningofsong-t-mmlery/>

Please pray for...



Helen Sweet's son-in-law, Alan. Norman Law, son of Margaret Law, recovering from surgery. David & Rosemary Platt's new grandson who has been taken ill. Tracy Cook, recovering from surgery. Please also pray for Barry Salter, Jean Arbon and David Jones.

Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required

Carrier Bags; Sponge Puddings/ Slab Cakes; Bleach; Anti-Bacterial Spray / Wipes; Ladies Deodorant; Jam; Eggs; Washing Powder/ Tabs/ Liquid; Washing up Liquid; Wet Dog Food

We have plenty of

Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Tinned Tomatoes

If you need to contact the Foodbank please call **01630 654007** (not the number in the current church directory).



Phoenix Group

(for those bereaved)

The group will meet on Friday 3rd December at the Red Lion for Christmas Lunch at 12.00pm

Knitted Angels

Just a reminder that the angels need to be in by next weekend, so they can have labels attached. They can be delivered to Barbara Shingler, 8 Glendon Close TF9 1NX. There is a box outside the front door to leave them in if no one is home.

Be a Santa to a Senior

Home Instead Senior Care have a Christmas campaign to distribute gifts to seniors who will be alone this Christmas. To find out how to donate gifts and/or identify an elderly person to pass a gift on to, please see the posters in church or contact Siobhan Davis, Community Engagement Manager at community.telford@homeinstead.co.uk or 07903 175997.

Staying in Touch

The office is now open Mon-Fri 11.00am—1.00pm.

Helen will be in the office from 9.00am.

Phone: 01630 653505

E-mail: stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com

We will continue to post information to our website and Facebook page:

Website: www.stmarysmarketdrayton.org.uk

Facebook: @StMarysMarketDrayton

Vicar: Catherine McBride

E-mail: vicarofstmarys@gmail.com

Phone: 01630 656943

If you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.

Please be aware that the office BT email address no longer works. Please use stmarysmarketdrayton@gmail.com