



ADVENT, a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (*adventus*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks

ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement: *Every eye shall now behold him robed in dreadful majesty.* (Charles Wesley)

The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22).

Church decorations are simple and spare, with **purple** as the traditional liturgical colour. Since this season falls at the darkest time of the year, the natural **symbols of darkness and light** are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas.

The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath, imported from northern Europe in the 19th century, is now a common practice, as is the Moravian custom of the **Christingle** celebrated with the support of **the Children's Society** since the latter part of the 20th century here in Great Britain.

The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times and still is today, with a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (*Gaudete* or 'Rose Sunday').

The last days of Advent, marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations.

The celebration which marks 170 Years of the Dedication of Saint Mark as a Parish Church continues - please do peruse the exhibition of 'historical documents' and don't forget there are still lots of items for sale in our display cabinet, including the **£5 Anniversary magazine**.

Last Quarterly magazine for 2022 – it's time to submit your reflections on the 170th anniversary month-long celebrations; as well as any other submissions from your holidays, the worship, Sunday School, MU/other events or any story you'd like to share with us. **To Josh please j.dumbrill@icloud.com**

Calling those adult male parishioners who live close to St. Mark's church and who may be willing to lock up the Hall at 11pm when there are 'late' party bookings. The women have been doing the 'locking up' for a long while now and feel it's time for a change. Most bookings are for children's parties or adult parties which conclude early. However, every now and again, there's a late booking and this is when we require help at 'chucking out' time.

I encourage you to pray about this and do let Donald, Simon, Cicelyn or Jan know if you're able to help in this way.

Welcome to the United Benefice of Holy Innocents & St. Mark, South Norwood

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



27th November 2022

Vicar: The Revd. Canon Roxanne Eversley
Asst. Priest: Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley
Lay Reader: Mrs Cicelyn Hinds

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)

10am Parish Mass (both Parishes)

*Isaiah 2.1-5 * Psalm 122 * Romans 13.11-14 * Matthew 24.36-44*

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Welcome back to those worshipping at Holy Innocents today; and welcome back to Father Peter Macan, today's President and Preacher at St Mark.

Pastoral Care: Mother Roxanne is available (except on Mondays) on Tel. 020 8916 1830 or 07723 038215 or mtrroxanne@gmail.com

Mother Susan, on 07890 780572 or email fs.kiley@btinternet.com (not available on Fridays).

To hire the Church Halls, please call:

Jan on 020 8653 0447 for St Mark; and Annette on 020 8771 5779 for Holy Innocents.

We pray: for **Archbishops** Justin and Stephen **For** the Bishops in this Diocese - Christopher, Karowei, Rosemarie (and the vacant See of Kingston).

For the bishops in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe, their clergy and people.

For the persecuted Church; for the work of **Christian Solidarity Worldwide** and similar organisations.

For The Nippon Sei Ko Kai.

For the sick – Claude & Richard, Helen, Jennifer & Reuben, Marie-Gabrielle, Rose, Caroline, Sigi, Anecka, Lynn, Ronald, Tommy, Ena, Rudolph, Pamela, Barry, Dennis, Linda, David, Adrian, Jacqueline, Colin (Castle), Carmen, Annetta, Fay, Marina, Pauline (Riches), Karen, Gerry, Rodney and Fr Tom Hurcombe.

The bereaved – the McKnight, Legay, McCann, Onyiaike, Irono and Gittens families.

The recently departed – George McKnight, Pierre Buire, Fidelia Onyiaike and Iona Gittens.

Years Mind/ those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time.

St Mark's Christmas Fayre takes place next Sunday 4th December, 11am-2pm in the Hall. Volunteers are needed to set up on Saturday 3rd Dec – please let Penny, Jan, Cicelyn, Marcia, Donald know if you can help with setting up on 3rd, clearing up on 4th, or running a stall on Sunday. We also need cakes and Raffle prizes – **Thanking you!**