

November 15th, 2nd Sunday before Advent Service at 9.30am

Services will continue to be premiered on You Tube at the same time as the Service is taking place in church
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKjwHIZkSxgvOqekIwx2Chw>

Opening Verses of Scripture 1 Thessalonians 5:10

God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him.

The Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Bible Reading: Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world. Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us, and brings us to eternal light and joy; through the power of him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen



A Celtic Blessing for Peace by Iain Tweedale

May you find yourself
 Through love
 May you find yourself
 Through kindness
 May you find yourself
 Through listening
 May you find yourself
 Through simple things
 And may you find yourself at peace.

Prayers during the latest Covid lock down:

Lord Jesus Christ,
 you taught us to love our neighbour,
 and to care for those in need
 as if we were caring for you.
 In this time of anxiety, give us strength
 to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
 and to assure the isolated
 of our love, and your love,
 for your name's sake.
 Amen.

God of compassion,
 be close to those who are ill,
 afraid or in isolation.
 In their loneliness, be their consolation;
 in their anxiety, be their hope;
 in their darkness, be their light;
 through him who suffered alone on the cross, but
 reigns with you in glory,
 Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

**IF YOU ARE ILL, KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS, IF YOU CAN HELP, OR KNOW SOMEONE NEEDING HELP
 PLEASE TELL THE RECTOR email Pamphilon@gmail.com tel 07775 954144**

Daily Readings for the week November 16th to November 21st

Monday, November 16, 2020: Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18; Judges 4:8-24; Romans 2:1-11

Tuesday, November 17, 2020: Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18; Exodus 2:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

Wednesday, November 18, 2020: Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10, 17-18; Esther 7:1-10; Matthew 24:45-51

Thursday, November 19, 2020: Psalm 100; Genesis 48:15-22; Revelation 14:1-11

Friday, November 20, 2020: Psalm 100; Isaiah 40:1-11; Revelation 22:1-9

Saturday, November 21, 2020: Psalm 100; Ezekiel 34:25-31; Matthew 12:46-50

ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2020

We are going through unprecedented times and as we go through another 'lockdown' many families are really struggling to make ends meet. Christmas for all of us will be different this year but for some it is yet another pressure to be met from their ever-diminishing resources.

The families of vulnerable children will now have help from the government, as it has decided to fund school meals during the holidays but we hope our gift card scheme will enable these families to have a little more to spend cover the Christmas Season, for food, toys, clothing, in fact whatever they may need.

We, at St Mary's, would really like to make a difference but we, or should I say 'they' need YOUR help.

During November we are running an appeal to ask people to donate, through the church bank account, by cheque or a cash donation so that at the beginning of December, we can send a Sainsbury's Gift card to every family at Bletchingley School who is eligible for free school meals and, at the discretion of the head teacher, any other families that she feels will find Christmas especially hard to manage financially.

By getting this appeal underway urgently

- we can give the cards to the families at the beginning of December.
- give them hope that Christmas can be a little better than they feared
- show we love and care for their families
- give them the choice as to how they spend their gift card, on food, toys or clothing

The cards would be given with a note from the church

- explaining that we do not know who they are,
- we do not need to know who they are,
- that we are thinking and praying for them
- and that the card comes with our love to them and their family at the season of Christmas

Bank details

Branch: Nat West

Account Name: BLETCHINGLEY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Sort Code: 60-16-09

Account Number: 71583467

Reference Sainsbury Gift Card

Cheques should be made payable to Bletchingley PCC, please write on the back Sainsbury Gift card

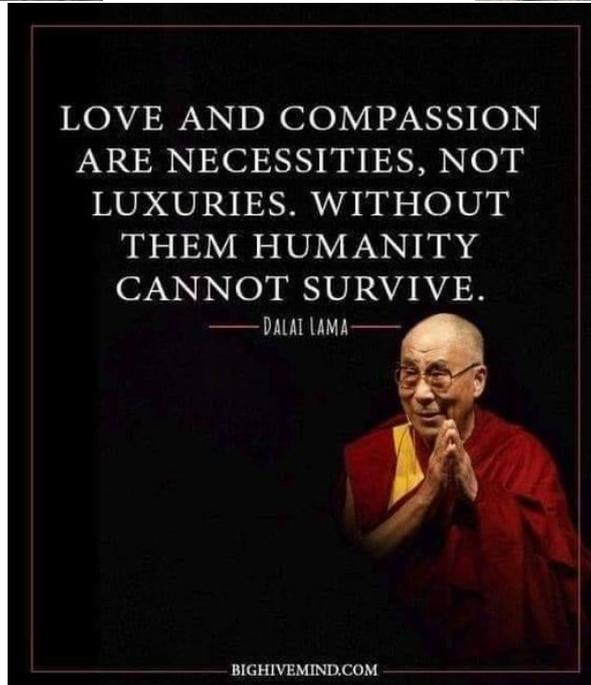
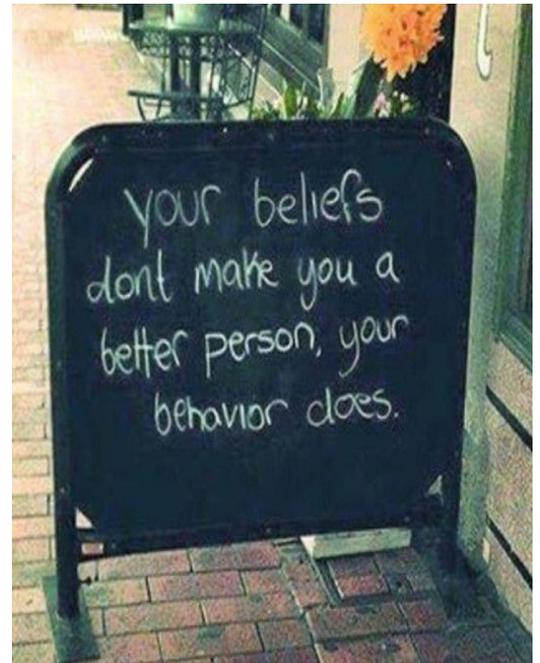
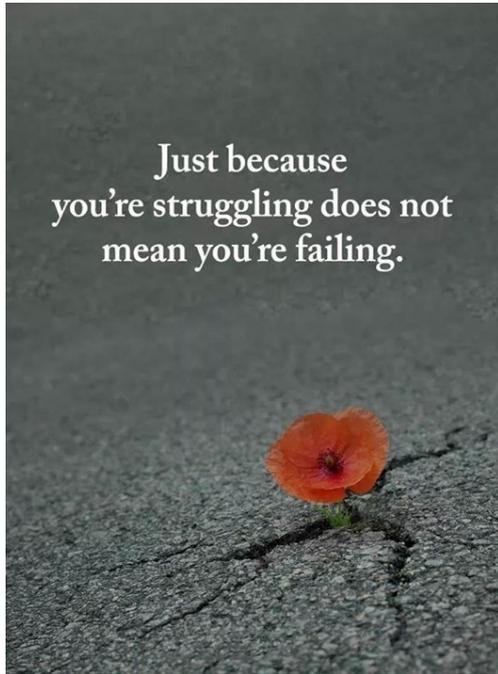
Cash should be put in an envelope and addressed as above again making it clear what the money is for.

Please deliver Cash and Cheques to the treasurer at 59 High Street, in the middle of the village opposite Lawrences

The closing date for donations is Sunday November 29th so that gift cards can be distributed during the first week of December

The congregation of St Mary's showed great generosity at harvest when about £1000 was raised for Welcare. We really hope that you will want to take this as a challenge and respond with equal (if not more) heart and really show love for our neighbours.

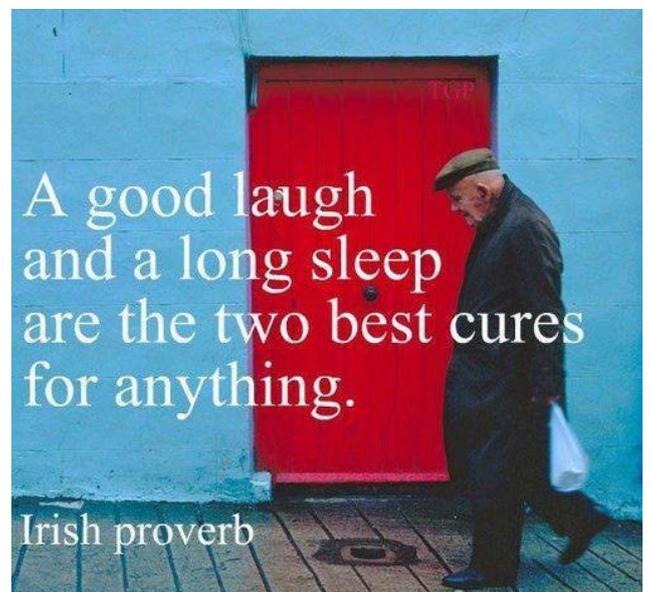
Please give generously



@PeacefulMindPeacefulLife

Note to self:

Today, instead of being
upset by all the things
that are wrong, I will be
thankful for all the
things that are right.



When is Diwali 2020?

The exact dates change each year but this year, Diwali 2020 falls on Saturday 14 November 2020.

Facts about Diwali

- 1) Diwali is an important religious festival originating in [India](#). People often think of Diwali as a Hindu festival, but it is also celebrated by Sikhs and Jains.*
- 2) Diwali takes place annually and lasts for five days, marking the start of the Hindu New Year. The exact dates change each year and are determined by the position of the [moon](#) – but it usually falls between October and November.
- 3) The word *Diwali* (or *Deepavali* as it's sometimes called) means “*row of lights*” in an Ancient language of India, called Sanskrit. During this festival, people decorate their homes with lights and oil lamps, called *diyas*.
- 4) For many people, Diwali honours the Hindu goddess of wealth, Lakshmi. The lights and lamps are said to help Lakshmi find her way into peoples' homes, bringing prosperity in the year to come!
- 5) It's also a celebration of good triumphing over evil, and different legends based on this theme are associated with Diwali. In northern India, Hindus celebrate the return of the deities (gods) Rama and Sita to the city of Ayodhya, after defeating the evil king Ravana!
- 6) In the region of Bengal people worship the goddess Kali, the destroyer of evil forces, during Diwali. And in Nepal (a country bordering north-east India), people celebrate Lord Krishna's victory over the wicked king Narakaasura.
- 7) But it's not just about lights and legends — Diwali is a time to have fun with friends and family! People exchange gifts and sweets, enjoy delicious feasts, watch firework displays and wear new clothes. It's a time to clean and decorate your home, too.
- 8) *Rangoli* is a popular Diwali tradition — beautiful patterns made using colourful powders and flowers. People draw rangoli on the floor by the entrance of their homes to welcome the gods and bring good luck!
- 9) Today, this fascinating festival is celebrated by thousands of people in countries all around the world. During Diwali, Hindus living outside India gather at places of worship called *mandirs* to leave offerings to deities, watch firework displays and eat yummy food together!
- 10) The city of Leicester, in the United Kingdom, holds the largest Diwali celebrations outside of India. Every year, tens of thousands of people gather in the streets to enjoy vibrant shows of light, music and dancing!