

Praying Alone Praying Together

Daily Prayer This Week

Morning Prayer is streamed live on Facebook at 8.30am on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and is available after that on Facebook and the website.

Readings and Collect Prayer for Daily Prayer in the coming week



Next before Advent	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday 18 December	Psalm 40 Matthew 16.13-end	Psalm 26 Isaiah 38.1-8, 21-22
Tuesday 19 December	Psalm 146 Matthew 17.1-13	Psalm 57 Isaiah 38.9-20
Wednesday 20 December	Psalm 46 Matthew 17,14-21	Psalm 4 Isaiah 39
Thursday 21 December	Psalm 121 Matthew 17.22-end	Psalm 84 Zephaniah 1.1-2.3
Friday 22 December	Psalm 124 Matthew 18.1-20	Psalm 48 Zephaniah 3.1-13
Saturday 23 December	Psalm 130 Matthew 18.21-end	Psalm 89.1-37 Zephaniah 3.14-end

**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.**



News from the Team
Sunday 17 December
Third Sunday of Advent
Braunston, Brooke, Egleton and Hambleton

Letter from Michael Ellard

Dear friends,

As we continue our journey through Advent, with its much-needed message of hope, joy and celebration, it is understandable that some may feel a disconnect between this theme and our world today, increasingly divided through war, conflict, hunger and inequality. We see politicians offering solutions to problems allowed to become acute, in a belief such solutions will win votes, more than bringing a lasting resolution to the matters of concern, whilst in contrast, others work tirelessly to resolve the suffering and inequality that persist.

It was into a world similar to this, that Mary was asked by God to bear his Son. A Son who was to change the perspective of many people's lives, yet, was to be rejected by some then, and with a more secular society today. The Angel Gabriel assures Mary that all will be well, (Luke 1:30), she is not to be afraid, yet, she realises that what God asks of her, to bear a child outside wedlock, would be punishable by death. Her concerns must have been overwhelming, questions would remain – was she being asked to bear this child, with all the consequences it could bring upon her and her family, against losing the love of Joseph, the man she had hoped to marry?

In her acceptance, Mary places the safety of her own life, with that of her unborn child, into the hands of God, through the trust and unfailing love she shows towards him. That trust and love continues to be an example to many today, for it points us to the meaning of 'living life by the Holy Spirit', yet it is a message often lost at this time of the year against the turmoil of the high street.

That love and trust in God is encapsulated in the words of Magnificat, or Mary's Song, (Luke 1:46-55), and through her acceptance, God's Son enters into our world. Yet, as Mary was to discover, it was a world then, like ours today, which, in part, finds it difficult to accept the values Jesus came to bring as being relevant to our modern way of daily living.

A secular society, where 'self-importance' becomes prominent can lead to an ideology that disregards compassion towards others, and fails to address the needs of people in a balanced and understanding way. Through Mary, Jesus grows and develops to point us to a way forward beyond the present, to a time of change that both challenges and changes the world around us. It is a way that shows why

we value each other, and it gives a peace which over-rides our anxieties of the future.

Her part in the Christmas narrative is reflected in the Advent wreaths that decorate our churches the worldwide at this time of the year, yet the importance of her role is not always seen or understood by those who look upon those five candles.

For the moment, we remain on our journey through the Advent story, reflecting on the Patriarchs, Profits and John, the Baptist who we remember this week, as he announces the coming of Jesus. So, as we stand alongside John, looking towards Mary, may we remember these people of great courage as they answered God in response to his call upon them, and know the peace that comes from placing our trust and love in God as they did, a peace that calms our fears of the present and for the future, as it had for Mary

Michael

Prayer and worship in the villages

Sunday 17 December <i>Advent 3</i>	4pm Hambleton Christingle 6.30pm Brooke Candlelit Carol Service
Monday 18 December	6pm Braunston Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday 20 December	6pm Egleton Carols
Thursday 21 December	7.30pm Oakham Nine Lessons and Carols
Sunday 24 December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	3.30pm Braunston Journey to Jesus 9pm Hambleton Holy Communion
Monday 25 December <i>Christmas Day</i>	8am Brooke Holy Communion BCP 9.15am Egleton Holy Communion 11.00am Braunston Christmas Communion
Thursday 28 December	6.30pm Brooke Compline
Sunday 31 December <i>Christmas I</i>	Oakham Holy Communion 10.30am
Sunday 7 January 2024 <i>Epiphany</i>	6pm Brooke Plough Sunday

Next Sunday 24 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings (morning) 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Readings (evening) Isaiah 52:7-10; John 1:1-14

All Saints Oakham 8am Holy Communion; 10.30am Holy Communion; 4pm Crib Service; 11.30pm Christmas Holy Communion

Notices

Prayer for the Sick

We pray to you, Lord Jesus Christ,

for those suffering in body, mind or spirit, among them Paul Wilkinson and Jack Pearce. We also pray for those we know, those who have no-one to pray for them and for all who care for and support them in any way.

Remembering the recently departed

We remember with thanksgiving those recently departed this life, among them Margaret Buxton, Alan Tomblin, Revd Paddy McKee, Robert Bebb and Frank Ipgrave (son of Bishop Michael Ipgrave, once curate here at Oakham), and we pray for the families and friends of those who have died.

Please phone the Team office or email notices@oakhamteam.org.uk to add names to these lists.

Nine Lessons and Carols at All Saints Oakham

7.30pm, Thursday 21 December

This is one of the highlights of our year – please do come and hear the Christmas story again and be prepared to sing favourite carols, with Laudamus choir. Refreshments afterwards!

Wanted: a Joseph

From Gail Rudge, Braunston

Help please! It's our Travelling Nativity Journey to Jesus on Christmas Eve at 3.30pm and we have a problem, we need a chap between about 15 and 30 to play Joseph, not a lot of lines to learn or many rehearsals but obviously it's an important role. You're guaranteed fun and laughter so come and join us, we need you! Contact Gail on 01572 755570.

Christmas closing

Please note that there will be no weekday offices in church or online between 26-30 December, AND the office will be closed between 22 December and 3 January.

New Year's Day Walk

The annual New Years Hambleton Peninsula walk is on **Monday January 1st 2024** with a 10:30 start from the fisherman's car park.

A bring and share lunch will follow at 5 Suthern Close, Oakham LE15 6FX. To co-ordinate the food and pre walk delivery please liaise with Liz 01572 720506 In addition to the usual full costal route there will be an optional shorter, just over 4 miles. All are very welcome

For details and support with transport please contact Richard on the above number *Liz & Richard Plummer*