

Worship for the Week

Praying, learning, serving, sharing

Sunday 17 December
Third Sunday of Advent
Langham Village Carol Service



What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man, I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him,
give my heart.



Okham Team Ministry contacts

Please contact one of the Ministry Team if you would like a chat or a visit. Visit our website www.oakhamteam.org.uk or keep up with news on our Facebook page [Okham Team Ministry](#).

Team Clergy

Revd Stephen Griffiths *Team Rector (Oakham & Langham)*

01572 869483 stephen@oakhamteam.org.uk

Revd Deborah Marsh *Team Vicar (Whissendine, Teigh, Ashwell & Market Overton)*

01664 474652 deborah@oakhamteam.org.uk

Revd Jenni Duffy *Team Vicar (Braunston, Brooke, Hambleton & Egleton)* 07507

442539 jenni@oakhamteam.org Revd Simon Aley 01572 737482

simon@oakhamteam.org.uk

Revd Shakeel Nurmahi *Team Curate* - 01572 812147

shakeel@oakhamteam.org.uk

Ordinands

Mrs Madeleine Morris madeleine@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mrs Alison Long alison.long@oakhamteam.org.uk

Lay Ministers

Mr Michael Ellard *Reader* 01572 722060 michael@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mr John Feehally *Reader* john@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mr David Pattinson *Reader* 01572 723884 david@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mr David Perril *Reader* 01664 452117 david.perril@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mr Alan Rudge *Reader* 01572 755570 alan@oakhamteam.org.uk

Canon Vyv Wainwright *Reader* 01572 755752 vyv@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mrs Gail Rudge *Parish Evangelist* 01572 755570 gail@oakhamteam.org.uk

Director of Music

Harry Jacques BA(Hons), PGCE, ARCO directorofmusic@oakhamteam.org.uk

Okham Team Office

Mrs Liz Needham *Team Administrator* 01572 724007 office@oakhamteam.org.uk

Office hours are Monday – Friday 9am – 1pm.

Mrs Sue Willetts *Finance Assistant* 01572 724007 finance@oakhamteam.org.uk

Ann Blackett *Parishes Support Officer* 01572 724007 psa@oakhamteam.org.uk

Notices or reports for inclusion in *Worship for the Week* and website should be sent by Tuesday evening to psa@oakhamteam.org.uk

Safeguarding Officers

Mrs Cally Griffiths *Oakham Parish Safeguarding Officer* 01572 869483

safeguarding_oakham@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mr Derek Cullen *Oakham Deputy Parish Safeguarding Officer* 01572 490760

derek.cullen@oakhamteam.org.uk

Mrs Jessica Blight *Langham* – 07557 333513 jessica.blight@oakhamteam.org.uk

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 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

December-January service plan for Oakham and Langham

	Oakham 8am	Oakham 10.30am	Langham 10.30am	Oakham 6pm
Sunday 24 December Advent 4 Christmas Eve	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	4pm Crib Service 11.15pm Midnight Communion	4pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion
Monday 25 December Christmas Day	Holy Communion	10.00am Holy Communion	Holy Communion	No service
Sunday 31 December Christmas I	Holy Communion	Team Service of Holy Communion at All Saints Oakham		Churches Together service at Oakham Baptist Church
Sunday 7 January Epiphany	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evensong

Online Services

- The Oakham Team Ministry Facebook page, where one of the ministry team leads a live stream of **Morning Prayer at 8.30am** on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and **Holy Communion or All-Age Service at 10.30am on Sundays from All Saints Oakham**. These are also available on the Team website, together with the *Worship for the Week* and *Praying Alone Praying together* booklets
- **Compline**. David Perril continues a weekly service of **Compline every Wednesday at 8.30pm** on the Oakham Team Facebook page. Please use the Compline booklet, available from the team office or ps0@oakhamteam.org.uk
Live services can be found on the bottom right-hand side of the homepage of the Team website www.oakhamteam.co.uk

The Week Ahead at All Saints, Oakham

Tuesday 19 December

8.30am Morning Prayer
9am Holy Communion
1.30pm Brooke Hill School Christmas Concert
7pm Choir Practice for Nine Lessons and Carols

Wednesday 20 December

9.15am Oakham CofE School Christmas Service
10am Carols and Holy Communion at St. John and St. Anne
No Music at Lunchtime now until after New Year

Thursday 21 December

8.30am Morning Prayer
1pm Churches Together Midday Prayers *at All Saints*
7.30pm A service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Friday 22 December

10.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am Oasis Coffee Morning
7pm Choir Practice

Saturday 23 December

10-11.30am Christmas Carols outside South Door
10am-12 noon Nativity Rehearsal

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

St Peter and St Paul Langham 4pm Crib Service; 11.15pm Christmas Holy Communion

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4pm Langham Village Carol Service

Gallery Carol *Rejoice and be merry*

Welcome and Opening Prayer

My brothers and sisters: in the name of Christ I welcome you. We have come together as Christmas draws near to prepare for our celebration of the birth of God's beloved Son. Through the days of Advent we have followed the light of Christ, and now we travel in spirit with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to acclaim with the multitude of the heavenly host the coming of the Prince of Peace. Through Scripture and silence, prayer and song, let us hear again the wonderful story of our redemption, and, hearing, let us rejoice and respond with lively faith.

May the almighty God bless us with his grace;
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life,
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of angels bring us all.

Amen.

Carol – Once in royal David's city

(soloist only)

1 Once in Royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her Baby
in a manger for His bed:

Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little Child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable,
and His cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3 And our eyes at last shall see Him
through His own redeeming love,
for that Child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and He leads His children on
to the place where He is gone.

4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see Him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
where like stars His children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

Words: Mrs Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 – *Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Thanks be to God.

Carol – *Come and join the celebration*

*Come and join the celebration,
it's a very special day;
come and share our jubilation,
there's a new King born today!*

See, the shepherds
hurry down to Bethlehem,
gaze in wonder
at the Son of God who lay before
them:

*Come and join the celebration,
it's a very special day;
come and share our jubilation,
there's a new King born today! !*

Wise men journey,
led to worship by a star
kneel in homage,
bringing precious gifts from lands afar, so,

*Come and join the celebration,
it's a very special day;
come and share our jubilation,
there's a new King born today!*

'God is with us'
round the world the message bring,
he is with us,
'Welcome', all the bells on earth are
pealing:

*Come and join the celebration,
it's a very special day;
come and share our jubilation,
there's a new King born today! !*

Words and music Valerie Collison (b1935) © Hye-Fye Music Ltd.

The Second Lesson

Luke 1:25-38 – *The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary*

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you. Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.' 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?' The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.' 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her.

Thanks be to God.

Choir – *What child is this?*

Carol – *In the bleak midwinter*

1 In the bleak midwinter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

3 Enough for him whom cherubim
worship night and day,
a breastful of milk
and a mangerful of hay;
enough for him
whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which
adore.

4 What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man
I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him,
give my heart.

Words: Christina Georgine Rossetti (1830-1894)
Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

The Third Lesson

Luke 2:1-7 – *The birth of Jesus*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Thanks be to God.

A Christmas Message – Revd Shakeel Nurmahi

Carol – *O little town of Bethlehem*

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to all the earth;
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.

3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Words: Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

'Joseph and the Shepherds' part I by Geoffrey Rust

Choir – *Child in a manger*

Carol – Joy to the world

I Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature
sing.

2 Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Intercessions – Pastor David

‘Joseph and the Shepherds’ part 2 by Geoffrey Rust

Carol – I saw three ships

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?
And what was in those ships all three,
On Christmas Day in the morning?

The Virgin Mary and Christ were there,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
The Virgin Mary and Christ were there,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Men:

Pray, whither sailed those ships all three,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
Pray, whither sailed those ships all three,
On Christmas Day in the morning?

Women:

O they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
O they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Choir:

And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

All:

And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Solo voice:

And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

All:

Then let us all rejoice again,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
Then let us all rejoice again,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

The Fourth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12 – *The Magi visit the Messiah*

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, ‘Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.’ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ‘In Bethlehem in Judea,’ they replied, ‘for this is what the prophet has written: “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”’ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and

said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Thanks be to God.

Choir – Up good Christen folk and listen

Carol – Hark the herald angels sing

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King.*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail the incarnate Deity!
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King.*

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King.*

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others

The Fifth Lesson

(All stand to hear the fifth lesson.)

John 1:1-14 – *St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Thanks be to God.

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;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Carol – *O come all ye faithful*

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the King of Angels.
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created.
O come...

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God in the highest.'
O come...

Prayer and action for the Holy Land

A few things to consider:

If you can give a donation you might like to support Christian Aid's relief operation christianaid.org.uk. There is a specific web page for the Middle East Crisis Appeal. We can also process cash donations in yellow envelopes marked **Christian Aid**. Christian Aid is considering how to support the Israeli communities devastated by Hamas as well as the needs of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. Their work is done in the context of the entire Middle Eastern region.

A prayer for each day

God, hear our prayers for peace in the Middle East.
May all people in the region be protected, safe from harm.
We pray that this crisis will end now, with no further loss of life.
God, may the injured and distressed know your healing presence.
May the powerful and the decision-makers follow the paths of justice, mercy and peace.
We pray for recognition of the dignity and value of every life.
May the clamour of violence cease,
replaced by the beating of swords into ploughshares.
In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

News from the Team

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 Ippgrave (son of Bishop Michael Ippgrave, 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.

Prayer for those with long term illness

Every week we update the list of those who are sick and have asked for prayer. This list is mainly for people with urgent or particular needs over the short term. Their names are mentioned in the intercessions. For those with ongoing health issues or who are in constant need of care, we keep a book of names. This is kept in the Trinity Chapel at All Saints Oakham. Whenever you are in church please do open the book and pray for those named in it

Christmas Services

Next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Advent until about teatime, when it mysteriously becomes Christmas Eve, liturgically speaking, and later in the evening, Christmas itself.

At Langham on Christmas Eve we have the Crib Service at 4pm and Midnight Holy Communion beginning at 11.15. On Christmas Day there is Holy Communion at 10.30am.

Nine Lessons and Carols 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!

Carol Services in the Team

Sunday 17 December

4pm Hambleton *Christingle*

6pm Whissendine *Carol Service*

6pm Brooke *Carol Service*

Monday 18 December

6pm Braunston *Carols by Candlelight*

Tuesday 19 December

6pm Egleton *Carol Service*

Friday 22 December

5pm Ashwell *Carol and Crib Service*

Sunday 24 December/Christmas Eve

10am Market Overton *Carol and Crib Service*

3.30pm Braunston *Journey to Jesus*

4pm Oakham *Crib Service*

4pm Whissendine *Crib Service*

5.30pm Ashwell *Carol and Crib service*
9pm Hambleton *Holy Communion*
11.15pm Whissendine *Christmas Communion*
11.30pm Oakham *Midnight Communion*

Christmas closing

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

Morning Prayer

Oakham Team Ministry Facebook page

For the next couple of weeks our online Morning Prayer will be on Facebook at 8.30am on **Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays**. In the New Year Revd Jenni Duffy will be leading Morning Prayer on Mondays and we are looking for someone to lead on Wednesdays. This could be done in different ways: by one person, or a couple of people working together or alternately (like Vyv and Ann on Fridays)

The service outline and most of the texts are in the *Praying Alone, Praying Together* booklet, the readings for each day are set out on the back page of *Worship for the Week*, and the intercessions are prepared by whoever is leading.

It's a regular commitment, but can be done from home. The current leaders either 'go live' or pre-record a service which they send to Ann in the office to schedule for the right day. You'd need to have (or set up) a personal Facebook account for going live. For more

information, please speak to Stephen stephen@oakhamteam.org.uk

Ordinands

Please keep the ordinands from our team in your prayers: George Brett (Trinity College Bristol), Alison Long and Madeleine Morris (training with Stephen), Nat Stiles (training with Deborah).

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 'coastal' 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*

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.



Neighbourhood Mental Health Cafés offer local support for people who need immediate help with their mental health. The cafes are drop-in centres for anyone to come and talk about their mental health – no appointment needed.

- A project funded by the NHS and hosted by Pepper's – A Safe Place
- Neighbourhood Mental Health Café
 - Open Thursdays 5.30-8.30pm and Sundays 4-7pm
 - Open to all who are aged 18+ - no referral needed, simply come along

The café will offer one-to-one listening and help clients develop future support plans. For anyone struggling with their mental health and needing immediate support, please come along. We provide a welcoming drop-in centre for anyone to come and talk, have a cup of tea or coffee in a relaxed and safe space. Experienced listeners on hand and transport options available.

Contact 07955 344126 email nmc@peppersasafeplace.co.uk
Pepper's – A Safe Place, (2a High Street, Oakham LE15 6AL)

Churches Together Breakfast

Date for your diary!

The annual Churches Together in Oakham (CTiO) Breakfast will be held at **Oakham Baptist Church on Saturday 20 January** from 8.30-11am, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

This year the talk will be about the various ministries happening through CTiO. The cost will be £4.

Dove Cottage

Friends of All Saints Oakham are supporting Dove Cottage as their charity this year. I have been supporting this charity for a while through Inner Wheel. To this end we collect plastic bottle tops! Tops from milk containers, toothpaste, ketchup bottles, aerosol cans, you get the picture, anything but black, and clean. If you think you could do this easy task, when you have filled a plastic bag please put in the box in church by the South door, and I will do the rest. I will then pass onto the appropriate person. Thank you.

Pat Munro

All Saints Pastoral group

If you or someone you know is feeling lonely or isolated, or is struggling to get out and about at the moment, please get in touch with the new Pastoral Group at All Saints Oakham. We provide Pastoral Visiting to those in need, whatever the reason. We can bring Holy Communion to you in your home, or just come for a chat, All volunteers are fully DBS cleared and safeguarding trained. For more information, please contact pastoralsupport@oakhamteam.org.uk or telephone All Saints Church on 01572 724007. The office is usually staffed from 9am-1pm, Monday to Friday. Please note this is not a professional counselling service.

Bereavement Support

The next **Drop-In** for people looking for help and comfort after a bereavement (no matter how long ago) will be on **Friday 24 November** in the Church Hall from 10.30am -12 noon. All are welcome, no charge, no booking required. Members of the All Saints Bereavement Support Group will be there to listen, provide tea and coffee and can signpost to other services if needed.

One to one support. We have some limited capacity for one to one support, whether in people's homes, in Church or on the phone. We can only offer this to people who live in the parishes of the Oakham Team but you do not have to be part of the church or have a faith. Contacts are

bereavementsupport@oakhamteam.org.uk or Madeleine Morris 07754 414437

There are also three *Bereavement Help Points* (BHPs) in Rutland, drop-in groups set up with the support of local hospices. They are open to all, free of charge and do not need to be booked in advance. More information on 01733 225927 or www.bhprutland.com

- Oakham BHP opens every Monday (not Bank Holidays) 2-4pm in the Fire Station on South Street.
- Uppingham BHP is every Thursday 3-5pm in The Falcon Hotel.
- Ketton BHP is on Mondays (not BHs) 2-4pm in Ketton library.

A Song of the Wilderness (Advent canticle)

- 1 The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice, ♦
the desert shall blossom and burst into song.**
- 2 They shall see the glory of the Lord, ♦
the majesty of our God.**
- 3 Strengthen the weary hands, ♦
and make firm the feeble knees.**
- 4 Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not,
your God is coming with judgement, ♦
coming with judgement to save you.'**
- 5 Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, ♦
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;**
- 6 Then shall the lame leap like a hart, ♦
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.**
- 7 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, ♦
and streams in the desert;**
- 8 The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing, ♦
with everlasting joy upon their heads.**
- 9 Joy and gladness shall be theirs, ♦
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

Isaiah 35.1,2b-4a,4c-6,10

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**



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.**