



All Saints Oakham

Worship for the Week

Praying, learning, serving, sharing

Sunday 17 December
Third Sunday of Advent



Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness
changed for gladness on that Day.



Oakham 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 [Oakham Team Ministry](#).

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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 <i>Advent 4 Christmas Eve</i>	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	4pm Crib Service 11.15pm Midnight Communion	4pm Crib Service 11.30pm Midnight Communion
Monday 25 December <i>Christmas Day</i>	Holy Communion	10.00am Holy Communion	Holy Communion	<i>No service</i>
Sunday 31 December <i>Christmas I</i>	Holy Communion	Team Service of Holy Communion at All Saints Oakham		Churches Together service at Oakham Baptist Church
Sunday 7 January <i>Epiphany</i>	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 weekdays and **Holy Communion or All-Age Service at 10.30am on Sundays**. 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

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

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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8am Holy Communion

Lighting the Advent Candles

Reader Jesus said, 'No-one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born; yet the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he.'

All **Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!**

The second candle is lit and this response is used

Reader Jesus is the light of the world.

All **A light no darkness can ever put out.**

Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

First Reading *Isaiah 61.1-4*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the Lord said:
The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion –

to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading *John 1.6-8, 19-28*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the

Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Amen.



*A Service of
Nine Lessons and Carols
7.30pm, Thursday 21 December
All Saints, Oakham*

With Laudamus Choir

Refreshments afterwards

10.30am Nativity Service

Facebook Live – Oakham Team Ministry

Welcome

Carol



Refrain

1 Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?*

2 God in time. God in man,
this is God's timeless plan;
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

3 Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected,

4 Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

*Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!*

Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)
Music: Personent Hodie (Piae Cantiones, 1582)

The Advent Candle

Reader Jesus said, 'No one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

All **Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!**

The third candle is lit and this response is used

Reader Jesus is the light of the world.

All A light no darkness can ever put out.

Reader We light our Advent candles.

Each Sunday as we come closer to Christmas,
we will light another candle.

All As the light grows, we will walk in it.

Advent Candle Song



We sing:

Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness changed for gladness
on that Day.

John the Baptist, by his preaching
and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching
news of hope restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady,
and be ready for the Lord.'

*Music: Angel Voices Edward George Monk (1819-1900)
Ancient and Modern 26)*

Confession

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

'You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

Therefore let us confess our sins.

You were born for our salvation:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You came as Saviour to bring wholeness and peace:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God,

who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,

bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

Amen.

Reading *Luke 1:26-33*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Carol

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 to-night.

2. O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on 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 given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
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 to-day.
We hear the Christmas Angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks; Music: English traditional arr. Vaughan Williams

The Nativity

Presented by the children.

Carols during the Nativity

Little donkey

Little donkey, little donkey, on the dusty road.
Got to keep on plodding onwards with your precious load.
Been a long time, little donkey, through the winter's night
Don't give up now, little donkey, Bethlehem's in sight.

Ring out those bells tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem.

Follow that star tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem.

Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day.
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.
Little donkey, little donkey, journey's end is near.
There are wise men waiting for a sign to bring them here.

Ring out those bells tonight...

Do not falter little donkey, there's a star ahead.
It will guide you, little donkey, to a cattle shed.

Ring out those bells tonight...

Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day.
Little donkey, carry Mary, safely on her way.
Little donkey, carry Mary, safely on her way.

Eric Boswell 1921-2009

Away in a manger

1. *(Children)* Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.
2. *(All)* The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there

Words: Author unknown, Little children's book, Philadelphia 1885

Music: Cradle Song, William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921), harm Eric Harding Thiman (1900-1975) (A&M – 60)

See him lying on a bed of straw



1. See him lying on a bed of straw,
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore –
the prince of glory is his name.
2. Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
show where Jesus in the manger lies;
shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise
to see the saviour of the world!
3. Angels, sing again the song you sang,
sing the glory of God's gracious plan;
sing that Bethlehem's little baby can
be the saviour of us all.
4. Mine are riches, from your poverty,
from your innocence, eternity;
mine forgiveness by your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.

Words and music: Michael Perry (1942-1996)

© Mrs B Perry/The Jubilate Group
(A&M – 82)

Silent night, holy night

1. Silent night! Holy night!

All is calm, all is bright
round the virgin and her child:
holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace;
sleep in heavenly peace!

2. Silent night! Holy night!

Shepherds quail at the sight,
glory streams from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born!'

3. Silent night! Holy night!

Son of God, love's pure light:
radiant beams your holy face
with the dawn of saving grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)

Music: Stille Nacht, Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863) (Ancient & Modern – 84)

Prayers

Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.
Christ, born in a stable,
give courage to all who are homeless.
Help us to put our faith into action.
Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angels sang,
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.
We pray for those who find this a hard time of year.
Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.
We pray for wars and conflicts of all kinds to end.
Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern.
We pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit for our local and national leaders.
Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.
We thank you for hope of heaven and new life.
Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

**Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary,
you know us and love us,
you share our lives
and hear our prayer.
Glory to you for ever. Amen.**

Carol



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. 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)
Music: Antioch, W Holford's *Voce di Melodia* c1834, arr Lowell Mason (1792-1872)
(Ancient & Modern – 72)

With love and compassion,

come, Lord Jesus.

With judgement and mercy,

come, Lord Jesus.

In power and glory,

come, Lord Jesus.

In wisdom and truth,

come, Lord Jesus.

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

Amen.

May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

A child says

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

6pm Evensong

The Order of Service is in the separate booklet and the hymns are taken from the New English Hymnal.

Opening Hymn

No.12 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Psalm 126

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, ♦
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter ♦
and our tongue with songs of joy.
- 3 Then said they among the nations, ♦
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
- 4 The Lord has indeed done great things for us, ♦
and therefore we rejoiced.
- 5 Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, ♦
as the river beds of the desert.
- 6 Those who sow in tears ♦
shall reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, ♦
will come back with shouts of joy,
bearing their sheaves with them.

**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.**

Reading *Isaiah 61.1-4*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the Lord said: The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they

shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Office Hymn

No. 15 The Lord shall come and not be slow

Second Reading *John 1.6-8, 19-28*

A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

"Make straight the way of the Lord",

as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn after the Prayers

No.6 Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes

Hymn after the Sermon

No.11 O come, O come, Emmanuel

Voluntary

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 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.

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. Whenever you are in church please feel free to open the book and pray for those named in it.

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).

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!

Christmas Services at All Saints

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. Services at All Saints are:

Sunday, 4pm **Crib Service**

Sunday, 11.15pm – **Midnight Service with Christmas Communion**

Christmas Day, 8 and 10am (note earlier time) **Holy Communion**

The church will be closed from about 2pm on Christmas Day.

Carol Services in the Team

Sunday 17 December

4pm Langham Carol Service

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

4pm Whissendine Crib Service

5.30pm Ashwell Carol and Crib service

11.15pm Whissendine Christmas

Communion

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.

Morning Prayer

Oakham Team Ministry Facebook page

Next week our online Morning Prayer will be on Facebook oat 8.30am on

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. 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

Home groups

Tuesdays (2nd and 4th) from 10-

11.30am at 56 Spinney Hill LE15 6JL.

(Corinna Woods 07758 624658, email corimarywoods@gmail.com)

Thursdays (2nd and 4th) at 2.30pm at

6 Peterborough Avenue

(Patrick Wilson 723288).

Please get in touch if you are thinking of joining a group; you are welcome to come and see whether you feel it's the right place for you.

Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

The PDGBR celebrates its centenary year in 2024. A special jigsaw has been

produced featuring notable church towers of the diocese, including All Saints Oakham. There are two versions available 500 piece (£15) and 1000 piece (£20) to order. There are information sheets in church explaining how you can order. Why not celebrate this 100th anniversary for our local Guild by joining our team of bell ringers.

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*

Open House

There will be no Open House this month - the next will be on **Tuesday 9 January** at Jackie Vecquarey's home, 6 Cricket Lawns, between 10am-12 noon. All are welcome - this is a good and easy way to meet people or catch up with those you haven't chatted to in a while. For details about Open House

please contact Sarah Bilsdon on 01572 723507.

Churches Together Breakfast

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 and you can buy tickets from the All Saints

Dove Cottage

Friends of All Saints are supporting Dove Cottage as their charity this year. representatives, Patrick and Marjorie Wilson or Helen Vickerstaff. A sign-up sheet will be put into church soon.

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*



10.30am 3rd December - Sunday School
10am 9th December - Christingle making
4pm 10th December - Christingle Service
10am 16th December - Nativity rehearsal
10.30am 17th December - Nativity
4pm 24th December - Crib Service
10am Christmas Day Holy Communion

Everyone welcome

Service times for Advent and Christmas

Sunday 17 December – 10.30am Nativity

Thursday 21 December – 7.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 24 December – 4pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Monday 25 December – 8am and 10am Holy Communion

Sunday 1 January – 10.30pm Team Service at Oakham





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)

Living with Loss Bereavement Retreat on 23-25th February 2024 at Launde Abbey

Sian Cheverton writes: This is a gentle, positive but realistic retreat, run by an experienced bereavement supporter, Abi May, who is also a bereaved mother. It is Christian based, though those of different faiths or none are welcome.

I went on a similar event at Launde run by Abi earlier this year and would recommend it; it included talks, discussions, craft sessions, time to think or chat or cry, and a service of remembrance with candle lighting, all surrounded by the comforts, beauty and good food of Launde Abbey. There is the opportunity for follow up Zoom discussions and low key social events ('cafe stops') afterwards.

For more details see the Launde Abbey website.

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 29 December** 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.

Details of various local support organisations can be found on one of the boards in the South porch.

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.**



The 'O' antiphons, ancient Advent prayers describing Christ

These are traditionally sung before and after the Magnificat canticle at Evening Prayer.

17 December – O Sapientia

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other mightily,
and sweetly ordering all things:

Come and teach us the way of prudence. *cf Ecclesiasticus 24.3; Wisdom 8.1*

18 December – O Adonai

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush
and gave him the law on Sinai:

Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm. *cf Exodus 3.2; 24.12*

19 December – O Radix Jesse

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer:

Come and deliver us, and delay no longer. *cf Isaiah 11.10; 45.14; 52.15; Romans 15.12*

20 December – O Clavis David

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel;
you open and no one can shut;
you shut and no one can open:

Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house,
those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. *cf Isaiah 22.22; 42.7*

21 December – O Oriens

O Morning Star,
splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:

Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death. *cf Malachi 4.2*

22 December – O Rex Gentium

O King of the nations, and their desire,
the cornerstone making both one:

Come and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay. *cf Isaiah 28.16; Ephesians 2.14*

23 December – O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our King and our lawgiver,
the hope of the nations and their Saviour:

Come and save us, O Lord our God. *cf Isaiah 7.14*

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.**