

HOLY INNOCENTS FALLOWFIELD

December 2017

Advent and Christmas

Advent Sunday, the start of Year B, is on December 3rd. The time leading up to Christmas is rich in imagery, words, music and prayer. Our advent course is called History – Faithfulness - Light and is in partnership with the people of St Chad's church in Ladybarn. The first session is on Wednesday November 29th at St Chads. It will be led by Andrew Dawson.

This year, Advent 4 falls on Christmas Eve. We will be decorating the church in the week after Advent 3, so that everything will be in place for the Christmas Day Festival Eucharist for the Lord's Nativity. **There will be no midnight service this year.** The decorating team will swing into action on Sunday 17th as the morning service ends. Our friends from the Mar Thoma Church will be holding their Carol Service from 5pm on that day as well.

In place of the Crib Service, we are hoping to take our witness to the birth of Jesus out into the community during the week leading up to the day itself.

Our in-house artist Neda is drawing two images: one is of Mary and Joseph and the donkey travelling towards Bethlehem, the other is of them sitting by a fire as they rest on their journey. The image will be blessed on

Advent 3 and then go on its travels around the parish. On the Monday morning, pupils and parents from St James' School will take the image to school for their Advent Eucharist to which everyone is invited. Details of where it will go from there will be published nearer the time. Please look at the timetable and see if there is a time when you can come along and join in.

There are art and craft and IT activities for children and young people to join in on each Sunday of Advent – all with a purpose!

SUNDAYS AND FESTIVALS IN DECEMBER

Sunday December 3rd Advent Sunday

President and Preacher: The Revd Canon Michael Ainsworth

Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-end

Hymns: *Come, thou long expected Jesus; Advent Gospel Acclamation; Lo, he comes with clouds descending; Hark, what a sound, and too divine for hearing*

Other music: *Rorate Coeli; Advent Light Prayer; Wait for the Lord*

For younger members:

Creating stars and planets; producing an Advent 1 WordCloud!

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Wednesday December 6th 7.30pm

FAITHFULNESS - Advent Course 2 at Holy Innocents, led by Lewis Oliver, Pastoral Assistant at St Chad's Ladybarn.

Sunday December 10th The Second Sunday of Advent

President and Preacher: The Rt Revd Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton

Readings: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2,8-end; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Hymns: On Jordan's bank; *Advent Gospel Acclamation; Hills of the North, rejoice; People look East*

Other music: *Matin Responsory; Advent Light Prayer; Wachet auf (Bach/Nicolai)*

For younger members: creating the animals who are in the Christmas Gospel - and another Advent WordCloud based on the readings for the day.

Wednesday December 13th 7.30pm

LIGHT - Advent Course 3 at St. Chad's Church Ladybarn. Led by members of the two congregations and the Revd Rachel Mann. A time of reflection and silence.

Sunday December 17th The Third Sunday of Advent

President and Preacher: The Venerable Revd Cherry Vann

Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4,8-end; Canticle: The Magnificat; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Hymns: *Hark the glad sound the Saviour comes; Advent Gospel*

Acclamation; Hail to the Lord's anointed; O come, O come Emmanuel

Other music: *O thou the central orb (Wood); Advent Light Prayer; Before the world began (Bell)*

Younger members are building a banner - a Posada!

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Sunday December 17th 7.00pm Evening Prayer: *O Sapientia* Posada

Procession to Church Door

Monday December 18th 8.40am: *O Adonai* Posada Procession to St James'

School; **9.15am:** St James' School Christmas Eucharist

Tuesday December 19th 4pm: *O Radix Jesse* Posada Procession

Wednesday December 20th 10am: *O Clavis David* Posada Procession

Thursday December 21st 10am: *O Oriens* Posada Procession

Friday December 22nd 12noon: *O Rex Gentium* Posada Procession

Saturday December 23rd: *O Emmanuel* Posada Procession to South East

Door of Church

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Sunday December 24th The Fourth Sunday of Advent

President and Preacher: The Revd Canon Michael Ainsworth

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16; Psalm 89:1-8; Romans 16:25-end; Luke 1:26-38

Hymns: *Tell out my soul; Advent Gospel Acclamation; O little town of Bethlehem; Come thou redeemer of the earth*

Other music: *A tender shoot; Advent Light Prayer; I waited for the Lord*

Monday December 25th Christmas Day

President and Preacher: The Revd Canon Michael Ainsworth

Readings: John 1:1-14; Isaiah 9:1-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

Hymns: *Hark the herald angels sing; While shepherds watched their flocks; Of the Father's heart begotten; O come, all ye faithful*

Other music: *Little Jesus, sweetly sleep; Christmas Antiphon*

Thursday December 28th The Holy Innocents

President and Preacher: The Revd Gary O'Neill

Readings: Jeremiah 31:15-17; Psalm 124; 1 Corinthians 1:26-29; Matthew 2:13-18

Hymns: *It came upon the midnight clear; Unto us is born a son; The great God of heaven; In the bleak mid-winter*

Other music: *Coventry Carol; What shall we give to the child in the manger?*

Sunday December 31st The First Sunday of Christmas

President and Preacher: The Revd Richard Young

Readings: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21

Hymns: *Joy to the world; The growing limbs of Christ the Son; Once in royal David's city; Angels from the realms of glory*

Other music: *Quelle est Centre odeur agreable?*

ADVENT COURSE 2017

History – Faithfulness – Light

Reflections on Advent Themes in images, seasonal readings, prayer and discussion.

November 29th – December 6th – December 13th

7.30 pm, St Chad's Hall - Holy Innocents - St Chad's Church

Remember: there will be no buses on Christmas Day.

If you would like to come to church on Christmas Day and need either transport, or overnight accommodation or both, please let us know.

If you can offer overnight accommodation or are away at Christmas and would like some 'house-sitters' that would be very helpful.

Support group for Asylum Seekers and Refugees

Janet Batsleer, Margaret Beetham

The members of our congregation who are asylum seekers and refugees bring much to share with the whole congregation but many are in difficult circumstances. Some are homeless and without rights because their appeal for asylum has been turned down, some face tribunal hearings on which their whole future depends; even those getting state support have to manage on very small amounts of money and may live in poor accommodation far from friends and from church; all are separated from family and friends.

We are suggesting that a small group of members drawn from all parts of the congregation, including those who have recently been given the right to remain form a support group. Hilary, who has been bearing the major burden of support, suggests that there are various tasks we might take on, namely keeping records, offering personal support, and attending tribunal hearings as part of a team. We will meet briefly after church on some Sundays beginning with November 26th.

Praying for Justice, Love and Peace

Linked to the above, and following on from the Week of Guided Prayer, we are suggesting we have a monthly commitment to pray some decades of the Rosary (or other forms of prayer if preferred) with a particular intention.

The idea is that we would do this wherever we are first thing on a Saturday morning, or Tuesday lunchtime but all with the same intention. Each month some-one would start us off by providing the topic for the prayers and providing a short briefing about them. Perhaps one Saturday in each month we could gather in Church at 9am to say the appropriate Mysteries together.

For each of these suggestions please contact Janet or Margaret if interested.