

### **BUS STOP ADVERTISING - Christmas begins with Christ**

In the Bristol Diocesan newsletter last month was an article about buying advertising space in bus stops, showing people where Christmas starts. There is some information on the oak chest in church.

I think this is a great idea - especially as it is possible to book advertising space on bus stops locally. Unfortunately some large companies have just done some bulk buying so it may not be possible for us to buy a stop near to hand, but that doesn't stop (sorry!) us praying for 'our' bus stop wherever in the UK it ends up being!

If you think it is a good idea too, please help me pay for a bus stop! Do you know, if everyone on the electoral roll gave just £1 we'd almost have enough for two bus stops! If you would like to help with the cost of 'our' bus stop please use the envelopes on the chest. Either put it in the collection plate or hand it to me please. Thank you.

**Lesley Uzzell**



**Week beginning Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

*But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' [launder's] soap... (Malachi 3:2,3)*

Malachi prophesied the coming of Christ, and the consequence of his coming. Christ comes to separate good from evil, to refine and to wash clean. For some, the coming of Christ brings the fear of judgement, but for others this is good news, for the guilty will be washed clean and made pure. John the Baptist proclaimed a similar message, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Both John and Malachi agree: repentance, a humble recognition of our fallen-ness and a commitment to walk in the ways of God, is the way to prepare for the coming of God. Jesus Christ came once in a manger, and will come again in glory. Therefore, Advent is a calling to prepare ourselves through repentance for the coming of the refiner's fire, and launder's soap.

For further reflection:

1. What 'covenant' is being referred to in verse 1?
2. Verse 3 says, "he will purify the descendants of Levi..." How do we know this applies to us? (See Galatians.)
3. Verse 5 says, "do not fear me..." The word 'fear' has a very specific meaning in the OT. Use a concordance to discover what it means.
4. Is Christ good news or bad news?

*Contact me if you would like my take on these questions.*

**Arthur Woo**

**Our readings today are:**

Malachi 3: 1-4 (pew bible page 961)

Luke 3:1-6 (pew bible page 1029)

Please join us for refreshments after our services today

If you prefer not to take alcohol, alcohol-free wine is available at our communion services - please take a pink card from a steward and ensure it is visible as you come for communion

### **PRAYING FOR THE BENEFICE**

This week we pray  
for those who live in Hannington village,  
for those who live in Inglesham Village,  
and all who live or work on the High Street

### **Volunteers no longer needed**

It has been decided that owing to such a good community response to the Carol Service it is no longer feasible to do a nativity tableau at the service. We will hold the idea for another year.

**Lesley Page**

### **PRAYER**

Holy God,  
We look for you, we long for you.  
Let us see that you come among us;  
Make us aware of your presence  
and grant us a glimpse of glory;  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever,

**Amen**

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER...**

*...all those who are sick or troubled,*  
praying especially for  
Lorna Bowie, Val Cox, Andrew Crowley,  
Gwen Drew, Hilary Fortnam,  
Peter Gibbs, Syd Huband, Janet Livall,  
Carole Richmond, Julia Riggs,  
Betty Taber

*...all those who are recently bereaved,*  
praying especially for those who love  
and miss  
Michael Moore

### **Parish of Highworth with Sevenhampton & Inglesham - who to contact**

All Ministry Enquiries - Rev Geoff Sowden (day off Friday) telephone 01793-765554

Church Office (Administration/General Enquiries) - Rosie Castle, tel 01793-762702 or  
email to [stmichaelshighworth@offices.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:stmichaelshighworth@offices.orangehome.co.uk)

[www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelshighworth.co.uk)

**SERVICES TODAY, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2009, Advent 2**

Highworth	8.00am	Holy Communion CW, Allan Bucknall
	9.00am	Parish Breakfast, Church Room, all very welcome
	10.00am	Morning Praise with children's activities, Arthur Woo/Lesley Page
	4.00pm	Children's Society Christingle Service, Arthur Woo
	7.00pm	Informal Worship, Arthur Woo
Sevenhampton	9.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Geoff Sowden
Hannington	10.30am	Holy Communion CW, Geoff Sowden
Blunsdon	10.00am	Family Communion CW, John Rees
	4.00pm	Children's Society Christingle Service, Geoff Sowden

**SERVICES NEXT WEEK, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2009, Advent 3**

Highworth	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Geoff Sowden
	10.00am	Family Communion with children's activities, Geoff Sowden
	4.00pm	T Time Gift Service & children's groups, Arthur Woo/Katie James
	7.00pm	Informal Worship, Arthur Woo
Inglesham	3.00pm	Carol Service, Geoff Sowden
Hannington	10.30am	Morning Worship, Janet Done
Blunsdon	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP, Rev Dr Richard Armitage
	10.00am	Family Worship, Jane Ockwell
	6.30pm	Evensong, Kathryn Dack
Grove Hill	7.30pm	Evening Service, Helen Weaver



**PARISH BREAKFAST** - breakfast will be served between the 8.00am and 10.00am services this Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December. We enjoy good food, good fellowship and a good natter - please come and join us!

**ADVENT PRAYER MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

As we continue with our focus of bringing Jesus into the heart of Christmas, this weeks Advent Prayers will be based on the carol 'We Three Kings'.

Please join us as follows:

*Monday morning in Church*

9.30am-10.00am Morning Prayer

10.00am-10.45am Prayer Stations

10.45am-11.00am Closing prayers

*Monday evening in Church*

7.00pm-7.30pm Prayer Stations

7.30pm-8.15pm Corporate Prayer

**Lesley Page and Lynn Woo**

**Christmas Open Days**

There is a list on the chest if you can sign up for an hour to serve coffee/tea to church visitors viewing the decorations.

The days are Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am-2pm; Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 10am-2pm, and Christmas Eve 10am-12noon. Promises of mince pies also needed. Any queries to **Hilary**

**WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK**

Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm	Church Room booked for private hire
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Advent Prayers in Church (see below)
	11.00am	Ministry team Meeting, Church Office
	7.00pm	Advent Prayers, Church Room (see below)
Tue 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Pilates in the Church Room
	10.00am	Carols at Middi Haines
	10.00am	2 classes from Westrop in church with Arthur
	8.00pm	Fabric committee meeting, 47 High Street
Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Music Bugs in the Church Room
	9.30am	Little Fishes in the Chancel
	12.30pm	Warneford NSPCC concert rehearsal in church
	2.30pm	Holy Communion at Grove Hill
	7.00pm	Pilates in the Church Room
Thu 10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Mothers' Union Carols and Communion in Church
	11.00am	'One Only' in the Church Room
	2.00pm	Warneford NSPCC concert rehearsal and set up in church
	7.00pm	Warneford NSPCC concert in church
	7.30pm	Bellringing practice, Bell Tower
Fri 11 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am	BWS in church and churchyard
	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Coffee Morning and bulletin folding, Church Room

**TUESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP**

There will now be a break for December and fellowship will resume on the 12<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00pm at 5 The Willows.

**Allan**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

to Eric and Janet Livall on the arrival of Beatrice to Sarah and James, a sister for Grace, with love from all in St Michael's Church Family.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

The Archbishop has now advised us that, with the swine flu danger receding, it will now be acceptable to return to normal. Normal distribution will resume as from next week, 13<sup>th</sup> December.

**Geoff**

**READERS, INTERCESSORS & CHALICE ROTA FOR 10AM SERVICES**

In the light of the return to traditional distribution, the rota issued last week has now been updated, and for those of you who do not receive your rotas electronically this will be in the letter rack.

**MOTHERS' UNION**

MU meets on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am in church for Communion with carols followed by coffee and mince pies. Everyone is welcome to join us. At this service we will be collecting gifts for those who use the Green Hut drop in centre in Gorse Hill - men, women, and children. There is always a shortage of gifts for teenagers. It is helpful if the presents can be wrapped and labelled. Members are reminded that subs for 2010 (£14.50) will be due in January please.

**Anne Rees**

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE** - you are invited to Northview School Fayre, Wednesday at 3.30pm