



www.cofebishopstoke.com

Showing and Sharing God's Love

27 November 2022
Advent 1

And a very special welcome if it's your first time here!

- You are very welcome to stay for refreshments at the end of the service if you can.
- If you would like to know about other things that happen in our church life, please see our website – www.cofebishopstoke.com
- During one of the songs in our service a collection is normally made. If you are able to use one of the Gift Aid envelopes, it really does make a difference and is most appreciated. At St Mary's we are also able to take card donations following the service. If you would like to find out about regular, tax-efficient giving, please let us know or take a look at <https://www.cofebishopstoke.com/giving-to-our-church>.

Today

St Mary's

8 am Holy Communion

Service starts on p.229

Collect on p.494

10.45 am Church Together

St Paul's

9.15 am Holy Communion

Bible Readings

[Psalm 122]

Romans 13.11-14 (p.1140)

Matthew 24.36-44 (p.994)

Contact: Revd Richard Wise on 8061 2192, email. rwise@talktalk.net

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Lighting of the Advent candle

People of God: awake!
The day is coming soon
when you shall see God face to face.
Remember the ways and the works of God.
God calls you out of darkness
to walk in the light of his coming.
You are God's children.



All **Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ
today and for ever. Amen.**

Collects / Prayers for this week

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Items for prayer...

- **the unwell** – Alison, Pauline, Rosalyn, Debbie, Finn, Joan & Vic, Vivian, Jackie, Liz, Tracy, Joy, David, Charlotte, Caroline, Jenny, Janet & Michael, Brenda, Tommy

- **we commend Peggy Bungay to God**, and pray for her family and friends
- **our parish** – as people prepare for Christmas; all who are struggling financially at the moment
- **Open the Book assemblies** – Wednesday morning at Stoke Park Infant and Junior Schools
- **Christmas services** – for people to come along; for our invitations and welcome; for Messy Christmas next Sunday
- **St Paul's building** – the possibilities for the site and the business plan
- **a new Bishop of Winchester** – please continue to pray for the Vacancy in See Committee and the Crown Nominations Commission as they seek to discern the right person to be our next Diocesan Bishop
- **peace** – in all places where there is conflict between peoples or military occupation; that nuclear weapons would not be used by any nation

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

This Week

Mon	2.30 pm	Prayer Healing Fellowship (St Paul's)
Tues	9 am	Morning Prayer (Methodist Church)
	9.45 am	Tots & Tinies toddlers (St Mary's)
	8 pm	Home group (Zoom)
Wed	7 pm	Christmas choir practice (St Mary's)
	8 pm	Compline / Night Prayer (Zoom)
Thurs	9.30 am	Morning Prayer (St Paul's)
Sun	10.45 am	Parish Communion (St Mary's)
	4 – 6 pm	Messy Christmas (St Paul's)

Covid safety measures We have now returned to the standard way of sharing the chalice in communion. If anyone is uncomfortable with this, though, they may still receive the wafer dipped in wine (from a different chalice).

Christmas Café Thank you so much to everyone who helped with this in any way and all those who attended. There was a lovely atmosphere, a good number of people, lots of good conversations, and some wonderful stalls. We also raised a £485 for the church – an excellent result.

Christmas services The Church of England's Christmas campaign this year is *Follow The Star: The Great Invitation*, and we are encouraged to invite people to our Christmas services. All the services can be found [here](#), and flyers are available in church. Please continue to think of 3 people (or more, if you wish), and pray that you would have the opportunity to invite them to a Christmas service.

Cleaning St Mary's We do not currently have enough people to clean St Mary's every week. If anyone would be willing to clean the church once a month for 1 – 2 hours, we would be really grateful. Please speak to Jeanette or Richard if you are able to help or would like to find out more.

November Eco Action...

Swifts are in decline at approximately 5% per annum due to the lack of nesting



sites. They live here in summer and fly all the way to Africa for the winter. They then return, often without landing, but need homes for when they are here. Hampshire Swifts have been recognised in Bishopstoke and would like people to have boxes on their houses. They charge £35 to supply and install a box, but say it is better if a few people in the same community order them, so they can install them together, as they are all volunteers. If you would like a box, please go to [Hampshire Swifts](#) or speak to Karen Caws.

Your contact details If you come to church regularly but have never completed a Church Contact Consent form, we would really encourage you to do so. There are copies at the back of each church. If you move or change your phone number, there's no need to fill in another form, but please could you let Richard know your new details? Many thanks.

Takeaway boxes If you ever have any, we would be very pleased to receive any plastic takeaway boxes with their lids for Messy Church, so

that we can give leftover food to people to take home. (They are often used for things like Chinese takeaways and are like small lunchboxes.)

Eastleigh Basics Bank are always very grateful for our support, and at the moment, due to the rise in the cost of living, the need is greater than ever. Donations of food can be made at many local supermarkets, the Basics Bank in Wells Place, or brought to church. At the moment, they are in particular need of:

- Tinned meat, fish, fruit
- Instant meals (pot noodles, pasta sauces)
- Tinned vegetables, including potatoes
- Tinned spaghetti
- Long grain rice
- Desserts (rice pudding, Angel Delight, jelly, sponge puddings, custard)
- Tinned fruit
- Spreads (jam, marmalade, peanut butter, honey, etc.)
- UHT / longlife milk
- Squash
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Washing up liquid
- Detergent capsules
- Toothbrushes

You can see the most up-to-date list on their [website](#) as well as the supermarkets which receive donations. Many thanks for whatever you are able to give.

Recycling We encourage you to bring your standard milk bottle tops (red, green, blue or orange) to church, as someone is very kindly willing to take them to be recycled. If you use tetra paks (e.g. with fruit juice or milk in), please bring them to church in carrier bags (washed out but still with lids) or leave them outside the Rectory, and Richard is happy to take them to a recycling point when he passes. He can also take Pringle (or similar) tubes to the same place.

Church compost bins We have compost bins in St Mary's churchyard (near the hedge on the east side of the church) and at St Paul's (at the front on the left-hand side of the car park). You are very welcome to put the following items in them: cut flowers, vegetable peelings, fruit cores and peel / skin, nettles, compostable cups. Please do not put plastic, dog poo, hedge cuttings, grass cuttings, horsetail weed or other food waste in the bin. If you have any queries, please contact Jenny on compostjen@gmail.com Many thanks.

Online giving to our church If you would like to give a one-off or regular gift online to St Mary's & St Paul's, our bank details are:

Account name: Bishopstoke PCC
Sort Code: 40-46-39
Account no.: 91780646

If you would like us to claim Gift Aid, you can download our Gift Aid declaration form from [this page](#) on our website. If you can't print it off, just let us know and we'll get a copy to you.

Parish Giving Scheme This will enable you to give regularly to our church. If you wish to Gift Aid your donations, this can be done without filling in an additional form. To join the scheme, please go to our page at [PGS](#). Many thanks.