

**Bulletin for the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

09.00am: Holy Communion

10.30am: Parish Eucharist

**Readings: Micah 5. 2 – 5a; Cantic: Magnificat; Hebrews 10. 5 – 10; Luke 1. 39-45**

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

09.15am: Morning Prayer

6.00pm: Advent Quiet – The Promise of his Glory

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve**

5.00pm: Crib Service

11.30pm: Midnight Mass

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day**

10.30am: Christmas Day Eucharist

**Readings: Isaiah 52. 7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1. 1-4; John 1. 1-14**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

John, Apostle and Evangelist (No service at Loganberry Lodge)

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

The Holy Innocents

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December – First Sunday of Christmas**

10.30am: Parish Eucharist

(No 9.00 am Holy Communion)

Our final service of prayer for Advent, The Promise of His Glory, is on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6.00 pm in church.

The Nine Lessons and Carols on 15<sup>th</sup> December was a beautiful service with stunning music provided by the Campanile Choir. It was good to have with us the Bishop of Colchester, and, as it was the mayoral carol service, the mayor, councillors and aldermen of the City of Colchester, along with distinguished guests including the Deputy Lieutenant of Essex, Mrs. Alix mason JP. The retiring collection for the mayor's charities raised £225.00

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**CHRISTMAS AT ST. ALBRIGHT'S**



**24th December, (Christmas Eve) Crib Service**

St Albright's Church at 5.00pm

**Midnight Mass:** St Albright's Church 11.30pm

**Christmas Day: Parish Eucharist** St Albright's Church at 10.30am

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**Services during the Christmas Season**

Please note that there will be no Holy Communion at Loganberry Lodge on 27th December and no Holy Communion in church on Wednesday 1st January. As Sunday 29th December (Christmas 1) is a 5th Sunday there will be no 9.00 service of Holy Communion and the 10.30 Parish Eucharist will be according to the BCP, the celebrant being the Rev. John Richardson.

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**EPIPHANY**



The feast of the Epiphany of our Lord will be celebrated on Sunday 5th January at the 9.00 am Holy Communion and 10.30 Parish Eucharist

The Baptism of Christ will be celebrated on 12th January, and we are hoping to have an Epiphany carol service towards the end of the month.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is from Saturday 18th January to Sunday 26th when we will be celebrating the Conversion of St. Paul.

Epiphany ends with the feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) on Sunday 2nd January.

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**Church Heating**

The new heating system using under pew heaters is working well. Many thanks to all those who worked hard to bring this about.

**Postage Stamps**

You may have received a lot of Christmas cards in the post this year. Please save the stamps and put them in the box at the back of the church for St. Helena Hospice.

**Books**

Next to the main door of the church there is a bookcase with many interesting and useful Christian books on a wide variety of subjects. Do take time to have a look at them and feel free to borrow as many as you like.

### **Church Gardeners**

The group for maintaining the churchyard is still happy to have any more volunteers. Please contact Steve Whitfield on 07833-472766 or [s.whitfield07@btinternet.com](mailto:s.whitfield07@btinternet.com)

### **Stanwell Hub**

Our 'drop in' and information session **Time to Talk Tuesday** meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at St. Andrew's Hall 1.30 to 3.00 pm. The next will be on **Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025**.

You can find details of what is happening at Time to Talk Tuesday and other wellbeing matters on StanWell Hub Facebook page [here](#).

### **Community coffee morning**

Our community coffee morning is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month, between 10.30am - 12 noon. Our next gathering will be in the new year, on **Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January**. Everyone is welcome.

### **Children at St. Albright's**

Children are welcome at all of our services. There are always crafts and activities available in church focussed on the theme of the day.

### **Family Communion**

On the third Sunday of the month, if there is a baptism, the 10.30 Eucharist follows a shorter and simpler form, and families are particularly welcome to this service.

### **St Albright's Tots**

A great playgroup for younger children which meets every Tuesday, except the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, from 10.00 to 11.30 in the hall during term time. The next one will be on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January**.

### **Holy Communion at home**

If you would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or if you know anyone who might, then please contact any member of the ministry team. There is also a Parish Pastoral Support Team whose members are able to visit, help and support those in particular need.

### **Giving and Stewardship**

Along with most parish churches, St. Albright's relies almost entirely on voluntary giving. We have received grants for specific projects, such as for the new roof and for our pioneering ministry, along with donations and legacies (some very generous) plus fee income from weddings and the like, but the everyday running of the church and our essential contribution to the wider Church, the diocese, comes from the giving of individuals. There is no state aid or subsidy, something which many find surprising. However, giving to the Church in terms of time and talents as well as money, has always been a fundamental aspect of being a Christian - supporting each other within the Christian community is a firm Biblical principle and one which we achieve at St. Albright's. So giving is not just a worthy and good thing to do, it is

an important, vital, part of being Church and of continuing our witness and ministry to the parish.

There is now a clear shortfall between our giving and our outgoings and there will be a letter in January circulated to everyone on the electoral roll setting out our financial situation and the importance of Christian stewardship.

These days there are many ways to give:

We now have a new card reader in church so that donations may be made using a debit or credit card.

It is also possible to donate to St. Albright's online. There is a dedicated page on the website to make giving much easier.

If you would like further details about how to give, and there are many ways to do so, then please contact any of the ministry team or churchwardens. We particularly welcome regular giving, however small, either using weekly envelopes or by standing order, and, if you are a taxpayer we can reclaim Gift Aid.

It is also possible to sponsor a day in the life of the church. You may wish to make a one-off donation in memory of someone or to celebrate a particular event. Please contact any of the ministry team or Churchwardens.

Flowers. If you would like to donate towards the cost of providing the beautiful flowers in church, then please speak to any of the ministry team.

## **For your prayers**

### **Collect for Fourth Sunday of Advent**

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **The Advent Collect**

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.

### **Collect for Christmas Eve**

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Collect for Christmas Day**

Almighty God, you have given us your only begotten son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy spirit; through Jesus Christ your son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Collect for Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr**

Gracious Father, who gave the first martyr Stephen grace to pray for those who took up stones against him: grant that in all our sufferings for the truth we may learn to love even our enemies and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt, looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us, Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on God, now and for ever.

**Collect for John, Apostle and Evangelist**

Merciful Lord, cast your bright beams of light upon the church: that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John, we may so walk in the light of your truth that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your incarnate Son our Lord, who is alive with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Collect for Holy Innocents**

Heavenly Father, whose children suffered in the hands of Herod, though they had done no wrong: by the suffering of your Son and by the innocence of our lives frustrate all evil designs and establish your reigns of justice and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

We pray for peace in the Middle East:

Almighty God, from all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle we pray in the hearts of all the true love of peace, and guide with your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquillity your kingdom may go forward until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

We continue to pray for the people and nations of Ukraine and Russia. For peace and for the relief of suffering. The prayer tree will be remaining in the church until the conflict is over.

A Prayer for Ukraine:

God of peace and justice,

we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion  
to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen

*Archbishop Justin Welby, Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*

There are many places in the world that are suffering from conflicts and warfare, in particular the Sudan.

**We pray for our King, HM King Charles III, our sovereign and Governor of the Church of England**

**In our church community, please pray for:**

Our churchwardens and PCC

Our director of music and the choir

All who help lead our worship - especially readers, intercessors, servers and sidespersons

The ministry and pastoral teams as we seek to help those in particular need.

Those who care for the hall.

Our Architect and the building team

All those who are to be baptized and confirmed. Upcoming baptisms: Joseph Newman and Eloise Slater.

Pray for all those who have been baptised and for our continued connection with baptism families.

All those who have been married at St. Albright's in 2024 and all who have had their banns called here.

Our outreach, particularly with young people and to the schools in the parish.

**In the diocese of Chelmsford, please pray for** the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt. Rev. Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, and for the Bishop of Colchester, the Rt. Rev Roger Morris. Please also pray for our Archdeacon, the Ven. Ruth Patten, and for all the other parishes in the Colchester Deanery. Our Area Dean is Canon Erwin Lammens, vicar of Wivenhoe. The Assistant Area Dean is the Rev. Hannah Cooper, vicar of St. Luke's, Highwoods, and the Lay Chair is Lynne Gettings.

**In the Anglican Communion, please pray for** our Archbishops, the Most Rev Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and the Most Rev, Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York.

Please also pray for the Provincial Episcopal Visitors - The Bishop of Richborough, (vacant) and the Bishop of Ebbsfleet, the Rt Rev Dr Rob Munro and the Bishop of Oswestry the Rt. Rev Paul Thomas.

The diocese of Chelmsford has links with several overseas dioceses in the Anglican communion: in Kenya - Embu, Meru, Mberere and Marsabit; and the diocese of Trinidad and Tobago. There are also links with the diocese of Karlstad in Sweden and the Archdiocese of Iasi in Romania. Please pray for the bishops, clergy and people of these places.

**In the wider Church, please pray for** the Orthodox Patriarchate of Ukraine, for the Church in South Sudan, for Christian communities in Israel and Palestine, and for all Christians persecuted for their faith.

**In the wider world, please pray for** a better and wiser stewardship of our natural environment, especially for the delegates at COP 29.  
For the peace of the world wherever there is conflict.  
All the nations of the world and their leaders, especially the U.S.A

Our Prime Minister and government.

### **In our Community**

Please pray for :  
The medical and caring professions.

Other Christian denominations - the Tollgate Methodist Fellowship, Stanway Evangelical Church, The Kingsland Church, St. Teresa's Roman Catholic Church, Lexden.

Colchester Foodbank

Colchester Debt Centre

Colchester Korban Project

Colchester Engagement and Next Steps

The StanWell Hub

All families with young children, and for all our schools.

The elderly, vulnerable and those who have to isolate, and for all those who support them, especially their families.

Loganberry Lodge - all residents, staff and supporters and all who are in care homes and hospital at this time.

All our elected representatives - our MPs, county, city and parish councillors.

Those who have asked for our prayers: Karl, Sheila Bradfield , Joan Alexander, Debra, Daniel, Carol Harvey, Gordon Harvey, Keith, Penny Miller, Daniel Butcher, Ann Booty, Marcus, Mark Claydon, Allison, Sophie, Jo and Richard, Doreen Hales, Jenny Richardson, Brian Greenaway, Ann and John, Graham and Viv, Alex, Alexander, Simon, Joshua, Jill Dixon, Mervyn, Antony Watson, Maxine Humes, Jean Needs, Suzannah, Irene Brewer, John & Hazel, Morgan Burgoyne, Ann Adams, Dorothy Williams, John Perfect, Tony Windsor

If you have a particular prayer request there is a box in the church into which you can place a card writing the request or person's name on it. Alternatively you can send a message to the office.

The monthly prayer diary for **December** is on our website with printed copies in the church and distributed to those without access to the internet.

There is also the Church of England **Prayer Line** which is open 24/7 and is free: **0800 804 8044**

## **RIP**

Richard Van Aswegen, Robert Radcliffe, Phyllis Evelyn Clark, Richard Ives, Shirley McCormack, Snowy Barron, Stephen Spice, Veronica Morgan, Valeria Florea, Richard Mugford, Ida Totham, Donald Rampton, Paul Williams, Molly Farthing.

We hope you find this bulletin helpful. If you have any contributions, comments or questions then please contact the office or any of the ministry team.

With best wishes,

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