



PARISH OF NESTON

PRAYER

&

ACTION



SUNDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2021

ADVENT SUNDAY

Year C begins

Readings: Jeremiah 33.14-16 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13 Luke 21.25-36

St Mary & St Helen 8.00am Holy Communion
10.45am Sung Eucharist (Revd Alan Leach)

St Michael's 9.30am Kidz Club

St Thomas' 9.30am Eucharist

YouTube 10.45am Eucharist from St Mary & St Helen

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqJnfi7zblT5zttz7OQQWJw/videos>

OR search YouTube Neston Parish OR www.nestonparishchurch.org.uk

Collect for Advent Sunday: 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.

CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Mo 29 Ps 122; Mt 8.5-11

Tu 30 Ps 72.1-4, 18-19; Lk 10.21-24

2-4pm CAFÉ in West end of Parish Church

We 1st DECEMBER Ps 23; Mt 15.29-37

1.30pm Holy Communion in St Mary & St Helen

Th 2 Ps 118.18-27a; Mt 7.21, 24-27

Fr 3 Ps 27.1-4, 16-17; Mt 9.27-31

9.15-11.15am Stay & Play in West end of St Mary & St Helen.

5pm Evening Prayer group on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88488184705?pwd=ZE5EbFp0SFNSc0FJc2tubldCRXQzZz09> Meeting ID: 884 8818 4705. Password: neston

Sa 4 Ps 146.4-9; Mt 9.35-10.1, 6-8



SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Readings: Malachi 3.1-4 Philippians 1.3-11 Luke 3.1-6

St Mary & St Helen 8.00am Holy Communion (Revd Ian Urqhart)
10.45am Sung Eucharist (Revd Ian Urqhart)
12.30pm Baptism – Thea Iris Monaghan
(Revd Frances Skinner)

St Michael's 9.30am Sunday Praise and Kidz Club

St Thomas' 9.30am Sunday Praise

YouTube 10.45am Eucharist from St Mary & St Helen

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqJnfi7zblT5zttz7OQQWJw/videos>

OR search YouTube Neston Parish OR www.nestonparishchurch.org.uk

PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING

PARISH Selwyn Jones (Helena's Husband), Ian and Sheila Robinson.
HOSPITAL Arrowse Park: Sally Cox, Margaret Daintree and Sue Power.
ELSEWHERE Lizzy Barnes (Bristol), Revd Judith Calvert (Gt Meols) and Pat Clarke (Gt Sutton)

Those who have died: We give thanks for the lives of those who have died recently: David Gill, Tom Haigh, John Millington, Thomas Moore, Frederick Charles Robinson, Hilda Rogers and Alan Sourbutts. We pray for all their families and friends at this sad time. We remember anniversaries that fall at this time of year.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

As we start this Advent (remember, Advent means *coming*), and wondering what this New Year might bring, I also looked back over the past months. There have been many ups and downs for us all, as individuals, as a nation and as church community.



Compared with 2020, I certainly had more notes in my diary that weren't long phone calls or more Zoom meetings. We have supported each other in many ways, as we gradually opened up the church buildings for regular services and some social outreach groups. Parish prayers continue weekly and Mothers Union and Healing Guild meet each month at the mid-week Eucharist. Together we have mourned the death of many in funerals and memorial services. We now have the delight of welcoming families in Baptism, and celebrating Weddings. But the Church is so much more than this! Yes, we should meet together to worship our Lord, but through that, we become empowered to share love and forgiveness in all things. We are a community within a community, worshipping and working together to share God's living presence in the world as 'Christ the King'.

As we celebrated that last week, it didn't escape my attention that we also mentioned 'Interregnum', and I thought how outdated the word is! It describes the interval when a country has no ruler, no king - but no Vicar ever owns or rules a church. As St Paul explained, in the opening chapters of his first letter to the Corinthians, that it may have been the skills of a particular person who taught, lead or helped you in your need and to grow in faith, but we only follow Christ. We are members of God's church, not ours.

If we have to use the word *Interregnum*, let's think of these coming months as an interval, a pause, where we listen to God together, where we strengthen our sense of belonging and look to the future. Of course, there is sadness as Alan leaves us, and that puts a responsibility on us all to continue the work of helping and encouraging each other, of bringing back those who are missing from our fellowship and to sharing God wherever we are in the community.

I would like to thank you for your encouragement and support all through these long, Covid times which are difficult for us all. Over the summer I realised that my body and brain need some time to rest and heal, and that normal holiday breaks were not enough. With support from church leadership I plan to step back from Ministry Team until into the New Year - but don't think you can get

rid of me that easily! I hope to continue worshipping with you when I can. (The wrist is healing well, so I should be driving again soon!). God Bless. *Judith*

CAFE

This group meets monthly for tea, coffee, cakes and a get together with friends. There will also be board games, arts and a quiet "listening" table. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 30th November** from 2 - 4pm at the west end of the Parish church. All welcome.



CHRISTINGLE

Sun 12th Dec at 4pm in St Mary and St Helen's

This special service is for children of all ages. Please invite families and others you know, and come along yourselves. So that we can seat everyone as safely as possible, and have the right number of Christingle kits available, please let John Proud (336 5175) know that you will be coming. All proceeds go to the Children's Society.



CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

It's time to open your boxes again. As last year, we are not collecting in the boxes, and would ask that you please make out a cheque, made payable to "The Children's Society", in lieu of your box contents and send it to me at: 10 Leighton Road, Neston, CH64 3SD by 12th December. Amounts will be recorded and receipts issued. Thank you for your continuing support which this year is more essential and valued than ever before. *Haidee Proud 336 5175*

STREAMING AND HEATING

Dear Friends,

Just to bring you up to scratch on a couple of problems we are experiencing present. Occasionally, we have problems with streaming at our Sunday 10.45am service. We think it may be due to the internet signal in our area and our streaming technicians Keith, John and Gordon who, although they try their best to record and transmit the service, are experiencing problems. So, I have arranged for someone to come and check the system over and to refresh and guide our technicians hopefully on a simpler technique. We all know practice makes perfect, and things go wrong, so let's say thank you to our three willing guys who try and bring the service into our homes.



Secondly, heating in the Parish Church. Oh dear, our gas engineer sadly has been unable to fire up the boiler so the big boys (Cadent) were called in to dig holes and lay a new pipeline, but even now they are scratching their heads as to what could be the problem. One thing for sure is that they are working to get the problem sorted out as soon as possible.

One thought, that has been quoted lately, is that while the heating is off, wear "An extra jumper for Jesus"! I apologise to all who have to sit in a cold church. Please bear with us as we try and resolve both problems and thank you for your patience.

Terry, Churchwarden

A BIG THANK YOU

To Meryl Abel for painting 30 mugs for our Knit and Natter group. They are much appreciated by all.

Shirley and Frances



DONATIONS TO WEST CHESHIRE FOODBANK

If you would like to donate, from 10th November, Neston Foodbank is particularly asking for: Tinned meats, UHT Milk, UHT Juice, tinned Desserts, Custard, Instant coffee, Treats (i.e. small chocolate bars/ bags of sweets), Jams and Spreads, Instant mash, tins of potatoes and pasta sauce. Collecting boxes can be found in Sainsbury's. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES TEAMS 4 U

I am delighted to report another successful year from this Parish. I have arranged collection of **163 Shoe boxes and £563** towards transport costs from my home on Monday 22nd Nov. On behalf of the children a "Huge Thank You". You will put smiles on the faces of 163 children who would otherwise not receive any gifts at Christmas. May God bless all the efforts to fulfil the work of Teams 4U. With love and thanks to you all. *Kath*

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Thank you for your continuing generosity and support. Please find below a summary of the Parish's day-to-day income & expenditure for 2021 to date.

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Planned giving, collections & Donations	£55,500	Parish Share	£56,500
PCC's Wedding & Funeral fees	£8,000	Insurance (churches)	£5,500
Gift Aid	£12,000	Heat Light & Water (churches)	£3,500
Neston Centre (net income)	£2,500	Church Maintenance	£7,000
Legacy	£500	Vicarage rates, water, phone.	£4,000
Room Hire	£1,500	Music Licences	£1,000
Field Rent	£500	Organist's fees	£2,500
Other income	£500	Cleaning	£1,000
		Churchyard maintenance.	£1,000
		Vicar's working expenses.	£1,000
SHORTFALL	<u>£8,000</u>	Other Expenditure	<u>£6,000</u>
	<u>£89,000</u>		<u>£89,000</u>
Day to day reserves (unrestricted, general)			
At 1st January 2021	£60,500		
Shortfall in year	<u>-£8,000</u>		
Reserve to date	<u>£52,500</u>		



Against Gender-Based Violence and Abuse in all its forms

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual United Nations' campaign taking place from 25 November (International Day for the elimination of Violence Against Women) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day). Mothers' Union is joining with thousands of other organisations to encourage more people to stand up and stop all forms of violence.

Our campaign is focused on the fact 1 in 3 women are victims of violence or abuse. To raise awareness of this disturbing reality, we are encouraging people to hold a three-minute silence at 1.03pm on Saturday 27 November (MU's Global Day of Action).

#NoMore1in3

CANDLES AT ST MARY AND ST HELEN

Traditionally, there are no flowers in our church during Advent. This year we have decided to put unlit candles around the church to remind us that this is a time of waiting for the Light of the World.

METHODIST COMMUNITIES 'LIVE AT HOME'

The Methodist Communities 'Live at Home' Sessions have now commenced weekly in the Hall at the Methodist Church, from 10am-12noon every Wednesday. These sessions were previously held in Churchill Court but recommenced on November 10th at the new venue. Each week there is the opportunity to join in social activities, such as quizzes or Bingo, and share in fellowship and light refreshments. It is rumoured that a Fish and Chip lunch is planned! Do come along and meet with Alison and her team. All are welcome!
Anne Kitchener, Secretary to the Church Council Neston Methodist Church.

CHURCHWARDENS. Terry Abel 336 4492 Marion Forshaw 07918 675212
ASSISTANT PRIEST Revd Judith Calvert 632 4729 rev.judithcalvert@hotmail.com
PASTORAL WORKER. Lesley Irvin 353 8840 lesley.irvin@gmail.com
NESTON PARISH OFFICE 336 5346. nestonparishoffice@gmail.com
P&A EDITOR Angela Klabou 336 6312 angelaklabou@gmail.com
PARISH WEBSITE: www.nestonparishchurch.org.uk Charity No 1129453