



Pilgrim News

1st December 2024

First Sunday of Advent

Welcome

A warm welcome to our services today. If you are new or visiting please introduce yourself and also fill in a 'Welcome to St Mary's Card', giving it to one of the welcome team.

Psalm - Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long. *Ps 25:4-5 (NIV)*



A Prayer for the first Sunday in Advent

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.

Services Sunday 1st December – First Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion – Jeremiah 33:14-16, Luke 21:25-36

9.30am Holy Communion – Jeremiah 33:14-16, Thessalonians 3-9-end, Luke 21:25-36

11.00am - Christingle All Age Worship – Genesis 1:1-2,31, John 3:16, John 1:1-5

All-Age Christingle Celebration – Today at 11.00am



Christingle is a candle-lit celebration which shares the Christian message of God's love, saving grace, and generosity, bringing light into the darkness, also supporting the work of the Children's Society.

Loaves and Fishes – Today

There will a collection for loaves and fishes. They are especially looking for the following: Corned beef, chicken or beef curry, stewed steak, peas, sweetcorn, UHT milk, rice, cooking oil, marmite, instant coffee, hot chocolate shower gel and female hygiene products. **Drop off donations, before 5th Dec in box in church** or contact Anita in office 01474 643075 due to building work at 23 Park Lane. Thank you!

Prayers for peace and hope

O God of all hope and peace, we bring to you the needs of our broken and hurting world as we pray for an end to violence and warfare. Help us, to affirm our common humanity so that in our differences we may build together for justice and peace. In Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Please Pray For ...

- Ukraine – Israeli and Palestinians, especially in Gaza and West Bank
- God's World: Ukraine
- Rochester: Beckenham Deanery
- The friends and families of Betty Willcox, Eileen Gilbertson, Shirley Le Fevre and Valerie Sladden



Diocesan Calendar of Intercessions

November-December available online:

For the latest Diocesan News

Visit - <https://www.rochester.anglican.org/>



Regular and other events this week

Christmas Tree Festival – Mon to Sat: 10.00am – 4.00pm

Monday

9.45am Open Door - St Edith Small Hall

1.45pm Baby and Toddler Group – St Edith Small Hall

Tuesday

2.00pm Craft Group – Kemsing Library

8.00pm Bell Ringing Practice at Kemsing Church

Wednesday

12.15pm Lunch Club – St Edith Small Hall

Saturday

10.00am-2pm Christmas Fayre – St Edith Hall's

12.30pm Peyton Sharp Thanksgiving Service - in Kemsing Church

Services Sunday 8th December – Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am Holy Communion – Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-61

11.00am- Morning Worship – Malachi 3:1-4, Philippians 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-61

Diary (Looking ahead)



Christmas Tree Festival: *1st – 8th December*

Helping to create a sense of awe and wonder and bringing the village community together in the spirit of Christmas, across Kemsing and Woodlands, 15 church and community groups are participating. **Please sign up to assist with**

stewarding during the Festival. Many thanks.

Please Note: the Church will not be accessible for other functions from Monday 2 December to Monday 9 December, inclusive.

Christmas Fayre Saturday 7th December, 10am – 2.00pm

If anyone can help in any capacity i.e. Cake baking, setting up the night before or help serving on a stall, please contact either Jenny Williamson or Anita (Church Office 01474 643075) as soon as possible. Thank you!

There will be lots of Christmas Stalls with an array of crafts and stocking fillers, Children's Activity room, Musical Entertainment, Guess the Weight of the Christmas Cake Competition, Cake Stall, Bottle Tombola, and Refreshments; hot food and drinks, plus mulled wine!

'Connect' – Parish Prayers

'Connect' Prayer leaflets are available in Church, via email and on the parish website:
www.kemsingandwoodlands.org



With a monthly opportunity to come together, particularly seeking God's guidance as important decisions are made. Reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians, leading into prayer for the Parish, these one-hour gatherings will continue in St Mary's, Kemsing, at **1.30pm**, on **Thursday 12 Dec.**

Candlelit Carol Service – St Mary's Church, Woodlands

Bringing the community together in the spirit of Christmas there will be a Candlelit Carol Service on **Sunday 15th December at 4.30pm** in St Mary's Church, Tinker Pot Lane, Woodlands. Do plan to support this traditional service, followed by refreshments.

Christmas Carol Service Choir – Sunday 22 December

The Christmas Choir Practices, for the Kemsing Carol Service, will be on the following Sundays from 4 – 5pm: **Today and 8th December.** On **22nd December**, the practice will be from 3.00 - 4.00pm, with the service at 7.00pm.

Christmas Eve Crib and Carol Service - at The Well

We are appealing for assistance with marshaling the crib service at the Well on Christmas Eve from 3.45pm to possibly 6.00pm at the latest. Six marshals are required with a possibility of five additional helpers to circulate with buckets for a collection. A full briefing will be given beforehand. All names to Mike Cursons please at cursons16@yahoo.co.uk or land line 01959 523 135."

Other Notices

Operation Christmas Child - Thank You...

Thank you to everyone who supported this Samaritan's Purse initiative. We are delighted to report that **206 boxes** were filled and safely sent off last week.



The Archbishop of Canterbury

Following Justin Welby's resignation, after the report published on the abuser, John Smyth, please hold Justin and his family in your prayers. Our prayers are particularly important for victims and survivors of abuse, as they continue to suffer the consequences of their trauma.

Please Pray – *Is God calling you to serve Him?*

There is a current need for **volunteers, who are able to offer Lifts to church members**, who have no other means of getting to Church on Sunday. Please contact Mike Lodge (07484 245993). Many thanks

Parish Profile Writing Group – *Assignment completed*

With many thanks to the writing group for completing their task, the PCC approved the Parish Profile at its meeting on 14 November.

Planned New Vicarage and Church Hall – *Please Pray*

Please continue to pray for pivotal decisions, including ongoing discussions with the key Diocesan Officers, regarding the building of the new Vicarage and completion of the Church Hall. Many thanks. *Mike*

Fundraising Team – *Events for 2025*

The Fundraising Team are currently planning events for 2025. If you have ideas for events, please add them to the 'Fundraising Ideas' List, located in Kemsing Church. Many thanks

Payaz Digital Giving Station – *In Church*

The 'Digital Giving Station', installed at the back of Church, enables 'Card' Donations to be made simply and easily.



easyfundraising

We're registered with easyfundraising, which means you can increase your financial support for the Church for FREE. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! Since registering last year, we have raised **£417.70**. All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. It's easy and completely FREE! Please refer to Notice Boards and sign up... Many thanks

Mike and Linda's final Sunday – *26 January 2025*

Mike's retirement from full time ministry is fast approaching. To let you know that his final service in Kemsing will be on **Sunday 26 January at 10.30pm** – a United Parish All-Age Communion - followed by a 'Bring and Share Lunch' in St Edith Hall. Please note: There will be no services at 9.30am or 11.00am.

Parish Contact Details – *see Church Porch Notice Board*