

**St Laurence Parish Church, Frodsham**  
**Newsletter for week commencing Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – Advent Sunday, Year B**  
 “To know God and to make God known”

Vicar: Rev Elaine Atack – [revelaine@nym.hush.com](mailto:revelaine@nym.hush.com)

Website: [slfchurch.org](http://slfchurch.org) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/saintells/](https://www.facebook.com/saintells/)

### **This week**

Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov Advent Sunday		No service due to lockdown Online service – see below for link	Isaiah 64.1-9 Mark 13.24 to end
Monday	10.00-13.00	Church open for private prayer – please wear a face mask	
Tuesday	10.00-13.00	Church open for private prayer – please wear a face mask	
Wednesday		Church closed	
Thursday		Church closed	
Friday		Church closed for private prayer	
Saturday		Church closed	
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec Advent 2		No service this week. Services will hopefully re-commence on 13 <sup>th</sup> December	

**Please join us for our online service each Sunday – and hear familiar voices. The link currently is:**

**<https://slfchurch.org/advent-2020-yr-b> and is also displayed on our website and Facebook page**

**If you or anyone you know would like a CD then contact Rev Elaine or Andrew and Wendy Rudd to arrange.**

Due to another lockdown there have been no Sunday services in church for the last few weeks. We now wait for the new Church of England guidelines on December 2nd to find out where we go from here. We hope that Sunday services will resume on December 13<sup>th</sup>. However we will be open for Private Prayer: Mondays and Tuesdays 10am – 1pm. Many thanks for your continued prayers, patience and support at this unpredictable time.

### **Prayers**

**Our prayers for those who are sick:** If you know of anyone whom you feel needs our prayers – please ask permission from them or their family and then pass their name to Rev Elaine:

[revelaine@nym.hush.com](mailto:revelaine@nym.hush.com)

**Please pray for –**

Those who are sick

For those who have died

Those whose anniversary of death falls at this time

### **Letter**

Dear Friends,

This Sunday is Advent Sunday, marking the beginning of our new Church year.

For those of you who may be unfamiliar with how our readings are chosen, we follow a three-yearly cycle:

Year A: When we follow the Gospel of Matthew (as we have been doing 2019/20)

Year B: When we follow the Gospel of Mark (as we will 2020/21)

Year C: When we follow the Gospel of Luke (Advent 2021/2022)

The Gospel of John is used at various times during all three years.

During the Advent season our liturgical colour is Purple – the colour of penitence, reflection and waiting.

Today we begin lighting the candles on our Advent wreath, formed from a circle of evergreen branches which symbolise eternal life. Four candles stand in the circle, each representing one of the four Sundays of Advent. In the centre of the circle is the fifth candle – the Christ Candle which is lit on Christmas Day.



The circular form of the wreath reminds us of God's eternal and endless mercy with neither beginning nor end. The evergreen speaks of the hope we have in God – the hope of new life in Jesus Christ and of eternal life.

The first candle that we light today is the PATRIARCHS CANDLE when we remember those early fathers who listened to the word of God and acted upon it – people like Abraham, Moses and Noah. It therefore is also the Candle of FAITH because Faith is

like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at this candle. We celebrate the faith of our ancestors and God's people of old.

In Advent, as we prepare to celebrate the Christ Child's birth, we remind ourselves that Jesus will come again in glory. It is so important that we do spend time reflecting during these weeks rather than jump straight to the "main event".

Maybe you would like to spend some time reflecting on the following thoughts by Thom Shurman:

*Come, God-with-us:  
who braves our rejections and hurt,  
who holds us in acceptance and love.*

*Come, God-for-us,  
who whispers in our ears,  
that we – each of us –  
are beloved children.*

*Come, God-under-us,  
who cradles us in arms that never grow weary;  
whose lap has room enough for all.*

*Come, God-over-us,  
who watches in the long silence of the night  
that we might rest in peace.*

*Come, God-beside-us,  
who steadies us when we falter,  
who lifts us up when we fall.*

*Come, God-behind-us,  
who picks up all the faded dreams  
we drop along the way  
and patchworks them into hope.*

*O Come, O Come, Immanuel:  
and we will rejoice for ever!*

As we light our first candle this week you may like to join me in the candle prayer for the first week of Advent, which I will read in our on-line service:

**Lord Jesus, light of the world  
Born in David's city of Bethlehem  
Born like him to be king:  
Be born in our hearts this Advent  
Be king of our lives today. Amen**

Keep safe and well,

With love and blessings,

Elaine 😊



## Notices

### **CHRISTMAS AT ST LAURENCE PARISH CHURCH, FRODSHAM**

As we approach the end of this second lockdown and move into tiers, it seems that our places of worship can now resume with Sunday services under the same restrictions as before. We are working on how this will work for us and our Christmas services. The likelihood is that some of our Christmas 2020 services will be pre-recorded and available online. More details will follow as things become clearer and when the Church of England have updated their guidelines in respect of the latest government announcements.

In the meantime, please keep checking our website for updates : <https://www.slchurch.org>

Our Facebook and website homepage will feature “**A Carol a Day**” from Advent Sunday (29th Nov) to Christmas with the theme “Jesus is the Light of the World”. This reminds us that whatever time of darkness we encounter on life’s journey, even Covid-19, the light of Christ prevails - and with that reminder comes the hope that despite the uniquely difficult year we have all faced, this Christmas will be a time of joy and celebration. Here’s the link for our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/saintells/>

If anyone would like to request a favourite Carol for possible inclusion, please email [saintells@gmail.com](mailto:saintells@gmail.com) with your name, your chosen carol and if you wish - your preferred tune. We already have ‘In the Bleak Midwinter’ and ‘O Holy Night’ so if one of these is your favourite, then please give us your second favourite.

The **Church of England** has produced a series of reflections for each day from Christmas Day to 2nd January 2021 entitled “**Comfort and Joy: Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas**” which mirrors a traditional carol service, and features contributions from *Kate Bottley, Jonathan Bryan, Bob Chilcott, Martha Collison, Guli Francis-Dehqani, Chine McDonald, Sally Phillips and Archbishops Stephen Cottrell and Justin Welby*. The series acknowledges that this Christmas may not be so easy to celebrate for those who have lost loved ones, livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with family this year. We will have the booklets nearer the time. Here’s the link: <https://tinyurl.com/y2atmd57>

Please join in our **Churches Together** theme of “Follow the Star”. From December 5th – please put stars (lights or drawings or photos) either in your garden or windows and look out for them as you go about the town.

**CHURCH QUIZZES** Do you long to spend an evening chatting to friends. Maybe having a laugh or two? Why not join us for the fortnightly quiz on Zoom. If you haven't Zoomed before, help is at hand to get you started. It costs nothing and works on any smartphone, tablet, iPad or laptop. Quizzes are at 7pm on Saturdays and there are two scheduled for December, 5th and 19th, which will be a Christmas one. Interested? Reply to [saintells@gmail.com](mailto:saintells@gmail.com) and wait for your invitation.

**HOT OFF THE PRESS (or at least out of the steriliser!)** Pickled onions in sherry are now available. Beryl also has Apple Chutney, Redcurrant Jelly and Damson Jam. When they’re gone, they’re gone. Please contact her after 10am or email [saintells@gmail.com](mailto:saintells@gmail.com) if you don’t have her number.

**RUSS' GARDEN CHUTNEY** is from his own, and an excellent Frodsham garden! Russ’s email is [russnaylor@ntlworld.com](mailto:russnaylor@ntlworld.com) for order and collection.

**FOODBANK** Donations can be made at Morrison’s, Sainsbury’s and Tesco and also to Frodsham distribution centre at Guide HQ, Ship Street between 1 and 3 pm on Fridays (excluding Bank Holidays). Current needs are biscuits, tinned fruit and long-life fruit juice. To find out about obtaining a voucher, opening times of distribution centres or how to donate financially through the online donation page, please visit the website - [runcorndistrict.foodbank.org.uk](http://runcorndistrict.foodbank.org.uk)

**DONATIONS TO CHURCH** Many people will now find it difficult to make their usual weekly contributions to the church. If you would like to contribute directly, our Bank Account details are as follows: ST LAURENCE FRODSHAM PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL Sort Code: 09-01-55 Account No: 42559803. Alternatively, you can use our online donations page <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/371c0c8f-ea13-4763-9688-e0de77dd8475>  
The work of our church during this difficult time is reliant on people’s generosity, a generosity that is a hallmark of a lived-out faith and a testament to it. Thank you.



## News from Church Members

### **THE WANDERING CHORISTERS – From Jeanie**

Last Wednesday Barbara and I walked from the shepherd houses to Sniddly Moor. The weather looked threatening but we had our waterproofs and were well prepared. It was muddy in places as we have had so much rain lately. We chatted as we walked and caught up with family news. On reaching Sniddly Moor we decided to carry on over the back of the hill and onto Sandy Lane which in turn led us to the Ridgeway. We turned right here and headed towards Alvanley but not before we had a chat to the rescue ponies who were all very busy chewing on a massive bale of hay. As we approached Alvanley Road it began to spit with rain. We noticed a lady in the field as we were walking by combing a horse's tail, she looked very relaxed. We said hello and continued our walk. As we reached the joining of Alvanley/Tarvin roads the rain started to come down heavier, so we decided to turn around and make our way back passing the lady in



the field who was still combing the horse's tail. We stopped and chatted to her and she told us that she was one of the volunteers that look after the horses and that a local farmer had recently let them have the field she was in and that they were hoping to acquire another field soon for the horses further up the road which we saw with the hay. We noticed that the area there was like a quagmire, mainly soil and hardly any grass. All the horses look so well looked after and we told her what a wonderful rewarding job the volunteers were doing. We said our goodbyes and continued our walk with the rain coming down harder. Sandy Lane became a bit of a quagmire and both Barbara and I were slipping and sliding and laughing. We couldn't eat our picnic, as it was too wet so we got back to the shepherd houses looking like two drowned rats, so to speak. After de-robing our wet waterproofs we got into my car and ate our picnic. Friendship is a wonderful thing.

*Editor: And what a lovely photo of you both. Keep wandering!*

**Contributions for the Newsletter should be emailed to [saintells@gmail.com](mailto:saintells@gmail.com) by 7pm on Wednesday. Thank you**  
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A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers