

The Parish of St David, Exeter

Parish Newsletter for 1 December 2024 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Our services this week at St David's:

Sunday, 1 December 2024 – 1st Sunday of Advent

9.30am Parish Communion with celebrant and preacher, Andrew Beane

6 pm Evening Prayer led by Ian Cartwright

Services in church and online this week

Tuesday 3 December (Francis Xavier, missionary, 1552 9.00-9.30 am Zoom Morning Prayer. Please join us using this

link <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75330401184?pwd=MIUTonKQK9bgFKV6lpn9rMbQUdYl8H.1>

Meeting ID: 753 3040 1184

Passcode: 5RWhXs

6 pm Women's Advent Reflection led by Sue Astbury in the Lady Chapel

Thursday 5 December 10.30 Holy Communion led by Mike Clark

Sunday, 8 December 2024 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.30am Parish Communion with celebrant, Mike Clark and preacher, Bill Pattinson

6 pm Evening Prayer led by Robert Mitchell

Services this week at St Michael's and All Angels CD

Sunday, 1 December 2024 – 1st Sunday of Advent

11am Sung Mass with celebrant and preacher, Hannah Alderson

Tuesday: 6pm Sung Vespers (live-streamed via Facebook facebook.com/stmichaelsmtdinhamexeter)

Thursday: 6pm Sung Vespers (live-streamed via Facebook facebook.com/stmichaelsmtdinhamexeter)

Sunday, 8 December 2024 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

11am Sung Mass with celebrant and preacher, David Gunn-Johnson

6 pm Advent Procession and Evensong with Benediction led by Steven Martin

Message from the Vicar and Churchwardens

1. Please note: the bumper December/January magazine is available this morning so please pick up a copy. We somehow missed the print deadline so the Churchwardens' greeting is given at the end of this email – do please take the time to read it, particularly the section about reviving the Buildings Team.

2. Concert steward – Saturday, 21 December

We need a steward to cover Nadia Eade's concert at St David's on Saturday 21st December - see <https://nadiaeide.com/winter-light-2024-uk-tour> - because Mary is unavailable. You would get free access to the concert plus a fee. Please speak to Maggie or the churchwardens.

Services this Christmas at St David's

Tuesday, 3 December - Women's Advent Reflection, 6.00 -6.45 pm

Sunday, 15 December - Carol Service, 6.00 pm

Tuesday, 24 December, Christmas Eve - Christingle, 4 pm

We really need more volunteers to help with this service. A couple of people have kindly offered but we need more. In addition, on Monday, 23 December, we will be assembling the kits for the Christingles themselves in the church. If you would like to help with any or all of this, do please see David Blundell, who will be leading the service, or Hilary after this morning's service or contact Hilary via email: todd.stdandm@gmail.com. Many thanks.

Tuesday, 24 December - Bethlehem (Midnight) Mass with carols, 9.00 pm with celebrant and preacher, Mike Clark. This Christmas, many of our singers and musicians are away with family, so as there will be Midnight Mass at the Cathedral and at St Michael's, we will be opting for a service earlier in the evening, without choir but any singers present will be in the congregation so there will be carols to sing.

Wednesday, 25 December, Christmas Day – Holy Communion with carols, 9.30 am with celebrant, Catherine Blundell, and preacher, David Blundell

Visiting and home Communion

If you would like to be visited or phoned by someone from the church community, please let Howard Friend know by ringing him on 07733

739453; for Communion at home, either for yourself or someone you know, please contact Ian Cartwright on 07813 795616.

Women's Advent Reflection - Tuesday, 3 December, 6.00 -6.45 pm to be followed by dinner at the Dinosaur at 7 pm

We are delighted that Sue Astbury will be leading our reflection this year. It will be followed by the women's Christmas dinner at the Dinosaur at 7 pm. There will be a selection of Turkish snacks to start with then we will each order from the menu and pay our own bills at the end. Please speak with Glynis or Helena to book your place. We will need to give the Dinosaur numbers by *1 December* but it would be helpful to have an idea of numbers as soon as possible. Thank you.

Men's Breakfast – Saturday, 7 December, Boston Tea Party, 9 am

The final Men's Breakfast of the year will be next Saturday at the Boston Tea Party at 9 am, just before the churchyard clean-up session.

Churchyard clean-up session - Saturday, 7 December, 10-12

Di Jacob was delighted to see so many eager helpers to tidy the churchyard on Saturday, 2 November. Many thanks indeed. We achieved more than hoped. To continue I would like to have another session 10-12 noon on Saturday 7 December if the weather permits. It would be useful to clear the ivy off the graves, and cut the grass around the same. Strimming and mowing may be needed too. This will hopefully put the churchyard to bed for the winter!

Parish Christmas lunch - Tuesday, 10 December, @34 Exeter College

The Christmas lunch will be on Tuesday, 10 December, at 12 noon, only 15 places with a cancellation fee. All welcome. Sign-up sheets in church from this Sunday. Please see Sue Wilson and Jenny Baker for more details

Carol Service and a request for mince pies - Sunday, 15 December, 6.00 pm

We are looking forward to our carol service on 15 December. We would like to offer mulled wine and mince pies afterwards. If you could help with the mince pies, that would be much appreciated. There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of church on Sunday or please speak with Maggie if you would like to contribute.

Carols in the prison – Tuesday, 17 December

We have been invited once again to sing some carols in the prison for their "Christmas Festival" on Tuesday, 17 December - time to be confirmed, but likely to be 1.30-3.30 pm. If you might be interested, please speak to Robert.

Knit and Natter – Tuesday, 17 December, 4 pm at The Imperial

The date for the Christmas Knit and Natter is Tuesday, 17 December at 4pm at the Imperial. All welcome for the natter or meal from 5.30. Please see Glynis for more details.

Tuesday Friendship Café

St David's Church is normally open on Tuesday mornings from 10.30 am to 12 noon as a drop-in for people to find a Christian welcome and company.

Wednesday Walks

Wednesday walkers meet and enjoy convivial conversation, gentle strolls, the changing of the seasons and a coffee together. Would you like to join us? We'd make you very welcome! We meet at 9am at the door at the west end of St David's and we leave promptly. If you'd like to join us please just turn up, or speak to Helena in church.

Men's Worship in Exeter

Ben Greenwood (of Belmont Chapel) is looking to set up a city wide men's worship evening. If you might be interested, please let us know: wardens@stdavidschurchexeter.org.uk.

Adult Literacy and Numeracy ("ALaN")

Could you help support adults seeking to improve their basic reading and arithmetic? The ALaN Club meets at The Mint on Thursday afternoons. If you might be interested, speak to Robert M., or see flyer at back of church.

Skylarks a cappella singers - Sunday, 22 December, 4 pm, St Stephen's

A concert of Christmas songs old and new in aid of St Petrock's. Suggested donation £10.

Your Prayers are asked for...

those who are suffering including:

Caroline Speed-Andrews; Maggs Bedford; Delia Bloom; Libby Clapham; Andrew Francis; Hazel Gowland; Roger Luscombe; Anne Smith; Sarah Wood; Clive and Jeanie; Beth; Charlotte, Paul and Grace; Will, Dave

those who have died recently including:

George Hexter – the arrangements for his funeral at St Michael's are as follows: Monday, 2 December, 4.30 pm; Reception of the coffin and Vigil, followed at 6.00 pm by Vespers of the Dead

Tuesday, 3 December, 11.00 am; Requiem Mass, followed at 1.00 pm by interment at the Higher Cemetery

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer please pray for:

The Children's Society

Please also pray for:

Our church following the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury

Our country and its leaders, both political and religious; for all those affected by the recent weather and those trying to put things right

Our world, for wisdom for its leaders and a wish for peace not war

Sunday, 1 December 2024 – 1st Sunday of 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.

1st reading - 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Gospel Reading Luke 21.25-36

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you

unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

Post Communion

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please tell us
at notices@stdavidschurhexeter.org.uk

Please send notices/content/prayer requests or amendments to Hilary
on todd.stdandm@gmail.com)

(All readings can be found via Oremus Bible Browser: <https://bible.oremus.org/> in
the New Revised Standard Version (anglicized edition))

Greetings from the Churchwardens

As always, there's been a lot going on since we last wrote. With the establishment of the Conventional District (CD) of St Michael's and All Angels, they now have their own PCC and Churchwardens, but our vicar, Mike, retains overall responsibility for them as the CD sits in our benefice. However, their change in status is being reflected in our weekly notices as we are now 'the Parish of St David, Exeter' so the services in the two churches are being shown separately, and the magazine will also change its title. It will, though, continue to have input from St Michael's.

Within our own church, we are delighted to say we have a new Parish Administrator, Jo Totterdell. She will be working with Mike and us on general administration, comms and the website, with Mary Quest on bookings, and also supporting the safeguarding team with its administration. A very warm welcome to you, Jo.

We have also welcomed Alice Francis as our new Safeguarding Officer, taking over from Mary Kirkland. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mary for all she has done over a number of years to ensure our safety as a church and in keeping us up to date with safeguarding requirements and training. It has been a lot of work for her (and the other members of the team) and we are very grateful to her. We also wish Alice well in her new role.

In addition, we are very pleased to say that Paula Morrish has taken on the role of Fire Officer for our church. Once again, the rules and regulations are becoming ever more stringent, with more regular checks and external inspections required, so we are grateful to Paula for taking this on.

On Saturday, 2 November, Di Jacob led a very successful churchyard working party. 17 members of the congregation came to give a hand so, as the weather was kind, we were able to trim round the base of the church and some of the graves, mow the memorial garden and the sides of the path to St

David's Hill, and clear paths and steps more generally. There was a very welcome cup of coffee/tea at the end of it!

Di has arranged another working party for Saturday, 7 December, and it is hoped to make these a more regular event to make the churchyard a more welcoming place to be.

Continuing the theme of keeping our church and its surroundings in good shape, we would like to revive the Buildings Team. Its terms of reference, approved by the PCC on 14 November, are appended at the end of this piece. We need a leader and some more members. Dave Allin, who has done so much over more than a decade to keep the church standing, quite literally, and in the best order it has been in years, will step back next year and we need someone take his place. As always, *leading* a team does *not* mean *doing* everything, so we also need some volunteers. As you will see from the description, some tasks are one-offs, others need more general help. Steph from the bell-ringing team has already kindly agreed to help keep an eye on the roofs, so do please give thought as to whether you would like to help with other tasks.

A collection for Angel Tree was held on 9 November and thanks to your generosity, raised the sum of £940, more than ever before. So thank you. Further generosity was in evidence with the lovely Christmas boxes created in response to the appeal for Moldova and Ukraine this year. 38 were blessed by David James at the service on 17 November and are now on their long journey to Eastern Europe. Many thanks to Gina for organising the appeal for us this year.

So now we approach the seasons of Advent and Christmas. On Tuesday, 3 December, Sue Astbury will be leading the Women's Advent Reflection in the Lady Chapel. This will be followed by the Women's Christmas Dinner at the Dinosaur. Our Carol Service will be on Sunday, 15 December at 6 pm, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. If you can help with the mince pies, please see Maggie Draper.

For Christmas itself, arrangements will be slightly different. It is a year when it turns out that many of our singers and musicians will be elsewhere, so as there will be Midnight Mass at the Cathedral and at St Michael's, it has been decided that we will have an earlier service, a Bethlehem Mass, at 9 pm on Christmas Eve, taken by Mike Clark. The link is that its timing will tie in with midnight in Bethlehem rather than the UK. This will be after the Christingle that afternoon at 4 pm. On Christmas Day itself, there will be Holy Communion at 9.30 am as usual, with Catherine Blundell presiding.

We wish all of our readers a blessed and peaceful Advent and Christmas and look forward to being with you again in print in February. As always, we thank you for your prayers, kind words and support.

Hilary Todd and Robert Mitchell

Terms of Reference – Buildings and Maintenance Team

Responsible to: the PCC

Team Leader: ?

Membership: anyone with an interest in the maintenance of the building and its surrounds; anyone with specific skills; bell ringers

Tasks:

1. To be aware of the contents of the Quinquennial Inspection and its recommendations, to assist in identifying tasks that can be undertaken within the expertise of the congregation, to make recommendations to the PCC about tasks out with their expertise.
2. Quarterly clearing of gutters
3. Quarterly inspection of the roofs, looking particularly for loose tiles (bell-ringers?), reporting to the PCC as necessary
4. Organise annual PAT testing
5. Organise annual boiler service
6. Organise annual fire extinguisher servicing
7. Organise 5 yearly EICR (Electrical Installation Condition Report) last done 2.10.2024
8. Regular walk round the building to check for blown light bulbs, loose floor tiles and wood blocks, spalling and general state