

Advent 3 11th December, 2011

TODAY

6.30p.m. Evensong at St Alban's.

THIS WEEK

- Mon **8.45a.m.** Morning Prayer at St Alban's (*NB*, earlier time than usual)
9.30a.m. Swaythling School Carol Service at St Alban's - all welcome
6-9p.m. Carol Singing around the Flowers Estate, handing out Mince Pies and CTSB Christmas Cards. Meet at 286 (Swaythling Methodist Church), organised by Churches Together - all welcome
- Tue 9.45a.m. Parent & Toddler Group Carol Service at St Mary's - all welcome.
10.15-12.00 Gary will be at St Mary's, pottering around in the Hall and

- Church. Do drop in, either to help with maintenance, or just for coffee and a chat
- 6.00p.m. Carol Singing at Grange Court, followed by...
- 7.00p.m. Carol Singing around Mansbridge, handing out Mince Pies and CTSB Christmas Cards, organised by Churches Together - all welcome. Meet at Mansbridge School
- 7.30p.m. Medics Choir Concert at St Alban's. All welcome - tickets on the door
- Wed 9.00a.m. Morning Prayer at St Mary's
- 9.30a.m. Holy Communion at St Mary's
- 10.30a.m. Mission Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy in the Community Room at St Alban's, in aid of the Mission Aviation Fellowship.
- 11.00a.m. Holy Communion at Grange Court. All welcome.
- 7.30p.m. Film Club at St Alban's: *The Nanny Diaries* (12) - A college graduate goes to work as a nanny for a rich New York family. Ensnared into their home, she has to juggle their dysfunction, a new romance, and the spoiled brat in her charge - a funny and interesting look at the way some families work.
- Thu 7.30p.m. Homegroup meets at 61 Bassett Green Road. All welcome.
- Fri 9.00a.m. Morning Prayer at St Alban's.
- 9.30a.m. Holy Communion at St Alban's
- 9.30a.m. Mansbridge School Carol Services at St Mary's. All welcome
- 10.15a.m. Friday Coffee Pot and Credit Union at St Alban's. All welcome
- 12.30p.m. Friday Lunch for pensioners - all welcome (Special Christmas Lunch - one week earlier than usual - *Please let us know* if you are planning to come - so we can cater correctly)
- Sat 10.00a.m. Choir Practice at St Mary's, preparing for the Carol Service - all welcome to join in.

NEXT SUNDAY ADVENT 4

<p>READINGS for next week: II Samuel 7:1-11,16, Cantic: Magnificat, Romans 16: 25-27, Luke 1: 26-38</p>
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- 8.00a.m. **Holy Communion** at St Mary's
- 9.30a.m. Choir Practice at St Mary's

- 10.00a.m. **Sung Eucharist** at St Alban's
10.30a.m. **Nativity Family Service** at St Mary's
5.00p.m. Choir Practice at St Mary's
6.30p.m. **Christmas Carol Service** at St Mary's, followed by refreshments (*No* Evensong at St Alban's)

NOTES AND NEWS

CHRISTMAS SERVICE POSTERS - There are posters in Church advertising our Christmas Services - please do take some and get them displayed wherever you can. Thank you.

CHURCHES TOGETHER CHRISTMAS CARDS - Can you deliver some of these to your friends, neighbours, or a road near you? If so, please pick up a bundle in Church, and let us know if you are going to deliver to a road - we need to get all 3,000 cards distributed (we shall be doing Mansbridge and the flowers Estate on the two Carol Singing Evenings this week).

CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS - Don't forget to order your Christmas Puddings, if you haven't done so yet. £5.75 for a 1lb pudding, and £9.50 for a 2lb one. Cheques payable to 'Parish of Swaythling', all profits to Church funds.

FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL are looking for people to act as hosts for international students on Christmas Day. See the leaflet in Church, or speak to one of the clergy.

MISSION DONATION ENVELOPES: If you are unable to come to the Mission Coffee Morning on Wednesday, and would like to make a donation towards this month's charity, please use one of the brown Mission Donation Envelopes at the back of the Church (not forgetting to fill in the Gift Aid section if you are a taxpayer) and either place it in the collection plate, or hand to a sides person. Thank you.

THE BASICS BANK - is providing for more people than ever at the moment, and needs to increase the stock of Hot and Cold Meat; Tinned vegetables; Tinned tomatoes; potatoes; Tinned Spaghetti; Pasta; Weetabix; Sauces; Rice Puddings; Custard.

E-MAIL PEW SHEET - Would you like to receive this Pew Sheet by e-mail each week? If so, send a message to Julie in the Office at Swaythling.Parish@tiscali.co.uk and she will send you a pdf copy.

You can donate to the Parish of Swaythling by text: Just text **70070** with the message: **SASM22** followed by **£** and the amount you'd like to donate, up to £10.
All of your donation is sent to the Parish.

SOME ENGAGEMENTS FROM THE VICAR & CURATE'S DIARIES THIS WEEK. In addition to usual parish duties and the events listed above, please pray for: Sunday afternoon and Monday evening, Gary is leading Evensong in the Cathedral while the Precentor is ill.
Monday afternoon, Gary is helping with the production at Swaythling School, while Sheena leads a Christmas Assembly at Bassett Green School.
Tuesday afternoon, Gary is again at Swaythling, and then in the evening attends the Mansbridge School Production.
Wednesday lunchtime, Sheena is on duty at the Chaplaincy at Cantell School.
Thursday evening, Gary attends Mary Poppins at Cantell School.

The Parish Website is: www.swaythlingparish.org.uk
The Vicar is: The Revd Canon Gary Philbrick - 023 8055 4231

This Week At Morning Prayer

We begin the week with Isaiah in a more historical mode and then read Zephaniah one of the so called 'Minor Prophets' who give us just a couple of pages but punches well above his weight. Zephaniah is mostly a Prophet of doom – however as with last week relief comes on Saturday as we then get the last few verses of the book where the Lord finally says “I shall rescue the lost and gather the dispersed. I shall win for my people praise and renown”. In the Gospel readings on Wednesday we come to the Transfiguration, the breaking through of Jesus heavenly identity into the earthly regime. Also on Wednesday Jesus tells us we need “faith no bigger than a mustard seed” in order to move mountains – it is hard for us to get our heads round such a promise but we must act it out with confidence.

M. Isa 38.1-8, 21-22, Mat 16.13-end; T. Isa 38.9-20, Mat 17.1-13; W. Isa 39, Mat 17.14-21; Th. Zeph 1.1-2.3, Mat 17.22-end; F. Zeph 1.1-13, Mat 18.1-20; S. Zeph 3.14-end, Mat 18.21-end.

HYMNS & READINGS
- for you to use today and during the week

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Collect: Advent 3

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to
prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

**A Reading from the Book of
the Prophet Isaiah**

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11

*Isaiah, in words that Jesus will
quote later, speaks of being
empowered by God to proclaim
salvation.*

The servant of the Lord said:
¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is
upon me, because the LORD

has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth

brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

At the end, the Reader says:

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126

1. When the Lord restored the for-| tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.
2. Then was our mouth | filled with laughter
and our tongue with | songs of joy.
3. Then said they a-| mong the nations,
‘The Lord has done great | things for them.’
4. The Lord has indeed done | great things for us,
and therefore | we rejoiced.
5. Restore again our for-| tunes, O Lord,
as the river beds | of the desert.
6. Those who | sow in tears
shall reap with | songs of joy.
7. Those who go out weeping, bear-| ing the seed,
will come back with shouts of joy, bearing | their sheaves with them.

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

Christians are encouraged to hold firmly to their faith.

My brothers and sisters, ¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; ²¹hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

At the end, the Reader says:

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL READING

Please stand and turn to face the Gospel Reader

An acclamation heralds the Gospel, to which all reply:

Alleluia.

When the Gospel is announced, the Reader says:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(Glory be to thee, O Lord.)

John 1.6-8,19-28

John the Baptist points to the one who will follow him.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ ²¹And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ ²²Then they said to him, ‘Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?’ ²³He said, ‘I am the

voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord,” as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ ²⁶John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

At the end, the Reader says:
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(At the end, the Reader says:
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to thee, O Christ.)

(c) New Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible.

Eucharistic Prayer: B

POST COMMUNION:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
that when your Christ comes again
we may shine as lights before his face;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.
AMEN.