

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The colour for Advent is purple which signifies that something serious is taking place. Purple is the colour of saying sorry at Lent, it is the colour of mourning at a funeral, it is the colour of reflective watchfulness at Advent. This is the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and it begins on the Sunday nearest to 30th November. At Advent we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas, but it also reminds us of the coming of Christ again.

The word Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus' meaning coming. It is a penitential season but is no longer associated with the strictness of Lent. Nevertheless Advent reminds us that the question is not whether Jesus will return to judge the earth, but when. There is much about Advent to enjoy, the Advent wreaths found in our churches where we have four candles to be lit each Sunday and one for Christmas Day. But in the midst of our church we know that just as we prepare for Christmas, so we have to make ready to welcome Jesus in our lives. Are you ready for the coming of Jesus?

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Southwark Cathedral – Tuesday 3rd December at 7.00 pm invite you for a special evening with Paula Gooder as we explore the women of the Nativity story together. Following on from her bestselling *Women of Holy Week*, Paula Gooder uses her extensive biblical expertise and storytelling skills to recreate the events of the nativity, from the promise of a future people to Sarah, to the presentation in the temple and the encounter with Anna, the prophet. Please check the Cathedral website for booking tickets, which are £5.00.

Story Quilts Crafters at Holy Innocents on **Saturday 7th December**, 10.30 am-12.30 pm, with our regular Community Coffee Morning, with a festive flavour.

Carol Singing at Croydon University Hospital
The chaplaincy team at CUH are inviting members of churches and organisations to come and join with them on **Wednesday 18th December** from 6 pm to commence singing carols on the wards at 6.30 pm, starting with a carol in the worship centre and then dispersing on the wards returning by 7:30 pm for another carol in the worship centre and then mince pies, mulled wine etc.



The Church of England website has some good resources for Advent – too many to list here. They include Paula Gooder reading from her book, and daily Advent reflections and prayers which are downloadable from the app.

Welcome to the United Benefice of Holy Innocents and St. Mark, South Norwood

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



1st December 2024

Vicar: Vacant

Priest (PTO): Revd. Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley, TSSF, SCP

Reader (PTO): Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)

10am Parish Mass (Both Parishes)

*Jeremiah 33.14-16 * Psalm 25.1-9 * 1 Thessalonians 3.9-end * Luke 21.25-36*

Today we welcome **Father Charlie Bell** at the 8.00 am Mass at St Mark and **Father Paul Smedley** at Holy Innocents

Access online worship via

www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: for enquiries regarding baptism, confirmation, weddings, blessings, house blessings, renewal of marriage vows, thanksgiving for the birth of a child, to make your confession, or to request a home or hospital visit, please contact Mother Susan 07890 780572, fs.kiley@btinternet.com or Cicelyn Hinds 07484 677951. Please note that Mother Susan's day off is Friday.

The Benefice is in vacancy. For Parish matters, please contact in the first instance, the respective church wardens, St Mark – Norma McKnight (ndwillis12@outlook.com) and Cicelyn Hinds (cahinds@btinternet.com) Holy Innocents – Church.warden@holyinnocentschurch.co.uk

We pray: for Archbishop Stephen; for the Bishops in this diocese, Christopher, Martin, Rosemarie and Alastair. For the Bishops, priests, deacons and people in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe and The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

Croydon South Deanery Sue Thomas (Area Dean) and Howe (Lay Chair).

For the sick - John, Emma, Marina, Richard, Alec, Malik, Simon, Caroline, Kay, Amanda, Sigi, Barbara, Anthony, Maxine, Peter, Martyn, Luther, Reiss, Roma, Colleen, Leonard, Leon, Jason, Michael, Graham, Orlando, Richard and Santosh.

The recently departed and those whose Years Mind falls at this time.