

ON THIS WEEK

MONDAY 10th DECEMBER

10.00am Christingle Service with Bosmere School in Church

7.30pm Community Carols at the Community Centre

TUESDAY 11th DECEMBER

9.30am Tuesday Tots in the ARK

11.00am Prayer group meet in Church

3.00pm Revd Diane burial of ashes

WEDNESDAY 12th DECEMBER

10.00am Christingle Service with Bosmere School in Church

THURSDAY 13th DECEMBER

10.00am Revd Diane Safeguarding meeting

10.30am Christians Together at Christchurch Carols we love to sing – final meeting for 2018

4.30pm Choir practice in Church for Carol Service

FRIDAY 14th DECEMBER

8.00am Revd Diane Governors' meeting Bosmere School

SUNDAY 16th DECEMBER

3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT

10.00am Sung Eucharist

4.00pm United Carol Service at St Johns

7.00pm Young people meet in the ARK

WEDNESDAY 19TH DECEMBER

7.30pm Mothers Union Christmas Communion at the Rectory

MONDAY 24TH DECEMBER

3.30pm Crib Services

11.30pm Midnight Mass

TUESDAY 25TH DECEMBER

10.00am Family Communion

SUNDAY 30TH DECEMBER

10.00am Sung Eucharist

Please include in your prayers

-Madge and Iris as Madge is back in hospital

-Ruth and family

-the Ruby family, especially for Linda

- Roland's mother Lore and for Roland and Allison

-Lisa

- all those recently bereaved, especially the family of David Caesar

-for all those who are affected by gender-based violence and those who campaign for justice across the world

-now the cold weather is here, for the people who run the night shelter and those who need to use it.

Give them your peace and comfort.

-may all leaders and heads of state take wise advice and act responsibly for the well being of all.

-for those involved in the Rural Resourcing Church initiative

We also pray for the many names that appear on our prayer board and all those who are suffering in mind, body and spirit, for those who are in pain and distress and for those who care for loved ones. Give skills to doctors and nurses and patience to all those who care for invalids.

-we ask for real longing for God in our lives; a longing that is not satisfied by anything else. We pray for more love and forgiveness and we thank you for showing us what needs putting right, and for forgiving us all that is past.

**St. John the Baptist Church
Needham Market.
IP6 8AE**

SUNDAY 9th DECEMBER **2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

10.00am Sung Eucharist

3.00pm Badley Candlelit Carol service

Readings

Malachi Ch3 v1-4 pg961

Philippians 1: 3-11 pg1178

Luke Ch3 v1-6 pg1029

Hymns

527 On Jordan's bank

574 Purify my heart

88 Brother, sister, let me serve you

703 Wake, O wake!

633 The Advent of our king

406 Long ago prophets knew

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us;

that whereas through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered

in running the race that is set before us,

your bountiful grace and mercy

may speedily help and deliver us;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,

be honour and glory, now and forever. Amen

SUNDAY 2ND DECEMBER we joined in the Towns Street Fayre by serving refreshments in Church and chatting to visitors who came to admire the roof and have a look at the photo boards showing the major repair work on the outside roof. We were quite busy and it was good to see so many people venture in through the doors. At 3.30pm we welcomed Castleton Brass for our Christmas Concert and again the church was full. It was a wonderful concert and even the band look upon this concert as the start of their seasonal concerts. The music was fantastic as always and we enjoyed singing a few Carols. Our thanks go to Jeff and Val for organising the concert and I must thank the ladies who provided us with cakes to sell and to the Margarets Wilcox and Savill, Wendy, Cora, and Peter for their help in serving and washing up during the afternoon. Also Jeff and David who were there most of the time helping out with setting up and making sure everything ran smoothly. These events don't just happen they take quite a lot of preparation and dedication to put them on. So thank you all. The concert raised £290.50 each for the band and to our funds and we raised £95 from selling and donations by serving refreshments. A wonderful afternoon that showed how the community came to their parish church. - Carol

UNITED CAROL SERVICE Sorry I am going to ask for donations of food again as we are serving refreshments after the service. I would therefore appreciate some boxes of mince pies or packets of biscuits for folk to enjoy with their beverage. I'm not asking for homemade so if you don't normally look to help when I've asked other times because you don't cook then here is your chance Thank you Carol Long

PURPLE ALTAR FRONTAL

It is good to see the newly made purple altar frontal in the Church and we are truly blessed to have the people who made it as part of St John's. They persevered, when it was difficult to source material and have worked together to produce something new for the Church. It has been made so that a separate panel – one for Advent and another for Lent – can be placed in the centre for the appropriate season. The panel currently on is the Advent one Thank you Sam and Penny for all your hard work

MEDIATION GROUP next meeting is on 17th December at 43 Barking Road. See Kate Holmes for information.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS if you are not sending Christmas cards this year but making a donation to church funds please let me have your greetings for the pew sheet by Sunday 16th December to go on the pew sheet for 23rd December. Thank you Carol

CONTACTS

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From the Vicarage

Those who attended the Growing in God Road Show recently found it both interesting and valuable in helping the thinking about our life as God's Church at St John's and I have to say that at the last couple of meetings thinking about Resourcing Church some good ideas were beginning to flow. We will need to reflect as a Church on the ideas coming out of both of these things as we plan for our mission in the coming year. We are however, approaching a busy time in our Church with Advent upon us from the start of December and numerous different services coming up. Details to be published soon.

Already I have had enquiries through the website and on the internet about our Christmas Services. Once again the school is booked in for Christingles and our Sunday Club is planning to start preparing for a short Nativity play and we are beginning to think about Carol services and all the rest.

It is very easy to get caught up in the excitement of buying gifts and ordering food, in decorations and card sending; but can I suggest that we take time this Advent – the time of preparation to – to prepare in a spiritual sense for the coming again of Christ.

I wonder who you could invite to a service this year – think about it; there may be someone who would appreciate being invited to come along. We have produced a card with details of all our Christmas services to go out to every home. The cards are being delivered to each home along with the Needham Market Newsletter so now we just need to pray that people will respond. Many people have already received them and some have responded already!

Diane