

PEW NEWS

Sunday 7 December 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

WELCOME

Please stay for refreshments after the 10.30am service. At this service there are activities and learning for primary school aged children in the Den. The President will call them forward when it is time to join the group.

NOTICES

It's cold!

We are very sorry that it is so cold in church. Our boilers are currently out of action and we are waiting for a part to come in. We will get them back up and running as soon as possible. There are blankets available at the back of church to help make you more comfortable.

Festival of Light – Thank you to Daryl and her team

The church has looked amazing during this past week and our visitors have remarked about the awe and beauty they've seen. Daryl masterminded the team who made the displays, including from our school. Homemade jams and chutneys, handmade scarves and blankets and creative wreaths and decorations all worked together to make a wonderful display. Two brilliant concerts were the cherry on the top and we thank the Cecilia Singers and the Surrey Hills Male Voice Choir for performing. There are a few jars and beautiful blankets and decorations still available. Do have a browse over coffee.

Christmas Fayre – yesterday

Despite the chill, the atmosphere was warm as visitors were welcomed to enjoy our Christmas Fayre. Again thanks to the volunteers who welcomed folk, provided stalls and yummy refreshments. The whole week represented a huge amount of work from a small team. Thank you to everyone who took part.

Church Open

Church is open on Friday mornings from 10.30am to 12 noon. Come along to have a coffee and chat with others. All Welcome.

Children's Society and Christingle Service- Christmas Eve 4pm

Please take a collecting box and fill with your spare change between now and our Christingle Service on Christmas Eve. All welcome to help prepare the Christingles on Tuesday 23 December. Time to be confirmed but we expect it to take about an hour.

Service of Lessons and Carols Sunday 21 December 4pm

All those who would like to join the choir for this service are welcome. There will be a short rehearsal after the 10.30am service today and the next two Sundays. Please speak to Michael for more information.

Readings for next Sunday 14 December - Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35.1-10; James 5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11

TODAY'S COLLECTS AND READINGS

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 for ever. Amen

Old Testament Isaiah 11.1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the

earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

New Testament Romans 15.4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Matthew 3.1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Post Communion Collect (10.30am only)

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen