



Parish of Christchurch



We welcome you to St George's Church this Sunday 3rd December 2017, The First Sunday of Advent.

We welcome our President for both services today,
Rev Canon Charles Stewart

A COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

TODAY'S READINGS:

Old Testament: Isaiah 64; 1-9
New Testament: 1 Corinthians 1; 3-9
Gospel: Mark 13; 24-37

TODAY'S HYMNS:

49	Awake, awake, fling off the night
198	Hark the glad sound, the Saviour comes
	Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts
486	The Lord is my light
250	In the Lord I'll be ever thankful
307	Lo, He comes with clouds descending

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

Father, just as you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus, help us to clear the path in our hearts too. Show us the distractions in our lives that might stop us from worshipping you this Advent. As we celebrate the first Advent, we look toward the day when Jesus comes again, and we will see you face to face. Give us the strength to ask for forgiveness and to then to change our ways. We ask this in the name of Jesus. AMEN

Today the Church remembers the life and works of Francis Xavier, Apostle of the Indies. Francis was born at the castle of Xavier in Spanish Navarre in 1506. He was educated in Paris and, with Ignatius of Loyola, became one of the group of seven who took vows as the first members of the Society of Jesus (or Jesuits). Since preaching the gospel overseas was an integral part of the Jesuit vocation, Francis sailed for Goa, on the west coast of India, in 1541. He travelled all over the East Indies, evangelising and establishing the church in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Malacca, Malaysia, and notably Japan, where he left behind two thousand converts. He was on his way to China when he died on board ship in December 1552.

AGAIN, MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION COMES FROM 'EXCITING HOLINESS'.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET that our All-Age Services will change to the SECOND SUNDAY IN THE MONTH from January. This will help to avoid clashes with things such as Bank Holiday weekends.

Prayers on Tuesday please for Virginia as she undergoes the surgery that was postponed from last month.

Sadly, Alan Willson has had to go back into hospital. He is very frail and may not be able to continue looking after himself. Please remember Alan in your prayers.

Maroulla has had Carpal Tunnel Surgery on her left hand, so Bob will be waiting on her hand and foot for a few weeks. It was originally planned that her right hand would be done first, but for practical reasons the left one was done, and when she eventually has the right one done, she will have to have a general anaesthetic.

Christmas Cake Draw - (donated by Daphne Waters.)

We are running a cake draw to raise some funds for church together with 4th Christchurch Brownies and Guides.

The cost is 50p per square on the board. Write your name and phone contact in a square.



If you would like to take part the board is at the back of church with a pot for the money. The draw will take place on the 17th December at coffee.

Our Offertory hymn at the 9.30 this morning is, "Longing for light, we wait in darkness" (Christ, be our light!). The words are on the sheet enclosed with this Newsletter.

Coffee today will be served at the back of the church as we will be leaving shortly afterwards for our Christmas Lunch at the Bailey Bridge. I think we owe an enormous vote of thanks to Gill and Pat for organising the lunch.

The Regent Centre will be showing the Royal Ballet's 'The Nutcracker' this coming Tuesday and Thursday, with a matinee on Thursday. This would be an ideal introduction to the world of ballet for children who you think might enjoy it.

A SUNDAY SMILE



Any articles for inclusion in next week's St George's News must be in by Friday evening please to Bob Savage at: Breezy Corner, 1 Hampshire Close, Fairmile, Christchurch, BH23 2TH. Telephone 01202 255431 or 07902 469745 Email: StGeorgesNews@christchurchpriory.org