

'Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.'
2 Corinthians 8 v.9.



30th November 2008
1st Sunday of Advent

MONDAY 1st Today is World AIDS Day. Please intercede that more national leaders and decision makers in countries throughout the world will acknowledge the spread of HIV/AIDS, and deliver on their promises to provide better access to treatment, care and support. Pray for all those, especially children, who suffer discrimination, bereavement and poverty as a result of AIDS.

TUESDAY 2nd Pray for all the individuals and agencies working hard, both politically and practically, to provide care and support to those living with HIV/AIDS, and pray that life-enhancing anti-retroviral drugs may be readily available to all sufferers. As Jesus was drawn to the poor, marginalised and outcasts in His earthly ministry, may we too have His compassion for the poor and needy.

WEDNESDAY 3rd As Jesus left the riches of His heavenly kingdom and took refugee status for our sake, remember the thousands who are refugees in our world today, fleeing from violence, conflict, famine and appalling poverty; some herded into basic refugee camps, others with no security or access to food, water and healthcare. Pray for those working with refugees in our own country.

THURSDAY 4th As the world economic problems bite harder, and the crisis over food shortages and cost affects more areas of the world, intercede for all those suffering from malnutrition, hunger and the danger of starvation. Pray for agencies like Tearfund who bring aid on a large scale, but also help communities become self-sufficient.

FRIDAY 5th As we think of our Mission Partners, some far from home as Christmas approaches, let's remember the Leake family, for whom Argentina is home! Pray for Andrew, just home after a consultancy visit to Rwanda; for Maria and the children as their new house nears completion; for their involvement with the local church, and for Tomas preparing for University in Buenos Aires.

SATURDAY 6th With Christmas fast approaching, pray about all the opportunities to share the real message of Christmas with those who may never have heard - in schools, prisons, hospitals and shopping centres, as well as through Carol Services and with individuals. Pray for the influence of the written and broadcast Christmas message.

SUNDAY 7th As Jesus encouraged the children to come to Him, let's pray for children everywhere who are excitedly looking forward to Christmas, but also for the rising number of children in the UK who live in relative poverty. Pray that as we have our Toy Service for Welcare, we may have the privilege of sharing some of God's gifts to us with others who are less fortunate.

Please phone any items for praise or prayer to Anne Butler on 313640

"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." Colossians 3:4

A PRAYER FOR TODAY

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.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR SERVICES

Please join us for Fair trade coffee or tea in the hall, after the 10.00am service.

10am	Holy Communion (pink)
1 Corinthians 11:23-26	p.1152 Barbara Cottier
Luke 22:7-20	p.1057 Olga Cross
Prayers:	Peter Williams
Preacher:	Stephen Bowen - 'Until He comes'

6.30pm	Evening Prayer (orange)
Micah 4:6- 5:5	p.933 Carol Apps
John 7:37-44	p.1072 Rona Bingham
Prayers:	Stephen Bowen
Preacher:	Alan Mathers - 'But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah'

Rota

	Today	Next Week
Coffee	Team F	Team A
Crêche	Karen Young	No Crêche

Welcome back to Alan Mathers who is preaching at the evening service

Many have appreciated the computer simulation of the proposed church development plans **We thank Jon Toogood** very much indeed for producing the very helpful aid., also for again producing the excellent **Christmas leaflets** which will available next Sunday.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Humpty Dumpty Playgroup meets on –
Mon/Wed/Fri.

THIS IS A HOMEGROUP WEEK

Tuesday 2nd December

12.45pm *Food for Thought* at West Street Baptist

Wednesday 3rd December

2.00-4.00pm “*Watercolour on Wednesdays*”

5.00pm *Brownies*

7.30-8.30pm *Keep-fit* in hall

Thursday 4th December

6.00-7.30pm *Jaffa Club* in hall

Friday 5th December

5.45pm *Rainbows*

7.00pm *Guides*

8.00pm Choir practice in church

Saturday 6th December

8.00-9.00am Prayer Breakfast in hall

NEXT SUNDAY: 7th December

2nd Sunday of Advent

10.00am FAMILY SERVICE

Talk: Stephen Bowen

6.30pm HOLY COMMUNION

Preacher: Stephen Bowen

ARE YOU NEW TO ST JOHN'S? - HELPFUL HINTS

If you are new to St John's, we are delighted to see you! Please do fill in a Welcome card (in the pews or at the back of church), which will help us to get to know you. Please place in the collection bowl or give to a sides person or warden.

If you would like to make use of the crèche and don't know where it is, please just ask one of the sides people. The service is broadcast in the crèche room. Someone will come and get you from church if your child needs you.

If you would like your child to join in with the children's groups, (Climbers, Explorers or Light Eagles), either as a visitor or on a regular basis, please go to the hall at the back of the church (by car park) and one of the leaders will be happy to help.

Hymns/songs are projected onto the screen at the front of church. If you would prefer to use a book, there are red hymnbooks (red numbers) in the pews and blue/green books (black numbers) at the back.

A collection bowl is at the back of church for any gifts you may wish to make. Gift Aid envelopes are available for tax effective giving.

If there are people to contact on the notice sheet who you do not know, please ask a sides person or warden (they have badges on), who will be pleased to help.

NOTICES

1. The sale of poppies at St Johns this November raised **£67.31** for the Poppy Appeal.
2. **Thank you** again to all who made the Quiz night a success – **approximately £550** was raised.
3. **Prayer breakfast** takes place next **Saturday 6th December** at 8.00am. All welcome to join this informal meeting– no need to book, just come.
4. **LEAVES:** Please spare an hour to come and sweep up some leaves from around the Church. Many, many thanks, Malcolm Francis.

5. **Singers needed** to support the Churches Together group singing **carols in Queen's Walk** from 12-2pm on **7th December**. Come for all or part of the time and make a Christian witness to the real meaning of Christmas!
6. **Posting cards soon?** Stamps this year are available in 2 designs. Consider purchasing Christmas ones rather than the secular ones.
7. **Crawley Open House** desperately needs sleeping bags, blankets, warm clothing including hats, scarves, gloves. They have 20 people sleeping in tents in Crawley - and the weather is getting very cold!
8. Last chance to see the **Mission board** this month featuring the work of **SAMS**, and our Mission Partners Andrew and Maria Leake.
9. **Dec/Jan Parish magazine now out.** Yours to buy for only 40p, plus free one to take to give away.
10. **LATEST COPY** of *Inspire* magazine (December) is available at the back of church. Read athlete Allie Outram's story of how God helped her battle with anorexia, consider Steve Pierce's suggestions for getting a grip on Christmas spending, and enjoy tackling this month's crossword, SuDoku and word search.
11. **New Musical 'ROCK' - Tomorrow, Monday 1st December at 8.00pm** Your chance to meet the composer Roger Jones and sing some of the songs from his new musical 'Rock', which has been booked into the Hawth, Crawley, for 24th March 2009. We need to recruit a large choir locally to support the touring company. This taster session will be at St. Wilfred's Church, Horley Row. See Peter Williams for further details.
12. **Next Sunday December 7th**, the Family Service will be a **TOY SERVICE** for **WELCARE**. A chance to donate toys (new please) or specific gift vouchers, to brighten the Christmas of children (0-8yrs), teenagers and parents who are less fortunate. Full details are in the November magazine, p.15. or speak to Rona Bingham. Do invite others to come.
13. **Prayer On Wednesday** at the vicarage on Dec10th
14. Climbers are having a **Christmas party** in the Church Hall on **14th December** between 3-5pm. All children under 6 who come to the Family Service or to Climbers are welcome. Contact Lindsey Saunders on 325662 for further info.
15. **DECORATIONS:** Does anyone have any Christmas decorations which we could borrow to decorate the hall for the Climbers Christmas party on December 14th? Thanks Diane.
16. **Tree of Light Service for St Catherine's Hospice** on Sunday **14th December** at 6.30pm. Leaflets at the back of the Church with full details. If you have a connection with the Hospice or have lost a loved one, and feel able to read one of the 4 very short prayers in the service, please speak to Stephen or Jenny Young. For further details please contact Jenny on 324849 or see p.3 of the November magazine.

Any notices, changes to rota etc. should be sent to noticesheetstjohns@googlemail.com Deadline is Wednesday evening please.