

St Augustine's Church

Newsletter

Sunday 27th November 2016 – Advent

Services and events this week



This Sunday

- 10.00 am Parish Communion with Sunday Club
- 6.00 pm Kairos

Tuesday 29th November

- 10.00 am Anchor Coffee Shop
- 12.00 noon Midday Prayers
- 7.00 pm Home Group – *Barn End, Newick*

Wednesday 30th November

- 6.30 pm Community Choir practice at the school
- 8.15 pm Home Group – *Heather Place*

Friday 2nd December

- 7.30 pm Youth Club

Next Sunday, 4th December

- 8.00 am Holy Communion
- 10.00 am Parish Communion with Sunday Club
followed by Parish Lunch
- 5.00 pm Christmas tree lighting and carols

This week's Bible Readings:

- Isaiah 2: 1–5 page 652
- Romans 13: 11–14 page 1076
- Matthew 24: 36–44 page 940

Notices

Christmas Events and Services – help needed

As usual, we will be offering mulled wine with mince pies after our carols round the tree and our carols by candlelight. If you're able to help by providing some mince pies for one or both of these events, please sign up on the list in the Annexe.

Also, if you're able to help with distributing cards giving details of our Christmas events and services in a road near you, please see Jenny Walker. Thanks.

Carol Singing round the Christmas Tree



We will be lighting the Christmas Tree and singing carols next Sunday, 4th December, at 5pm and this will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Men's Christmas Meal

The Men's Christmas meal will be at The Red Lion, Lindfield, on Thursday 8th December – we'll meet there at **7 pm**. The cost will be £17, including coffee/tea and a tip. Please sign up **now** on the sheet in the Annexe, and indicate your menu choices. *Mike H*

Posada Travelling Nativity

This Sunday our Travelling Nativity sets off on its journey to different families around our village and to St Augustine's Primary School. Follow its journey by looking at the notice board at the back of church. Please pray that the families and school children will experience God's love and the wonder of the true meaning of Christmas as they welcome baby Jesus into their homes. *Emily*



Ladies' Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas Event for Ladies will be a shared lunch party on Saturday 10th December at 12:30 pm, in the Annexe. All ladies are welcome! Please sign up on the list in the Annexe.

Family Support Work News

A special **Coffee Morning** to help FSW will be held in the Coffee Shop on Tuesday 6th December – St. Nicholas' Day. Besides coffee and cakes there will be a Christmas stall and raffle, with all proceeds donated to FSW. If you would like to provide a raffle prize please see Jenny Walker.



Count-down to Christmas with an **Advent Jar** instead of an Advent calendar and help FSW. Advent Jars are a new initiative from FSW. If you would like to support FSW's work with vulnerable children and their families in Sussex in simply take a jar and pop a coin into it each day during Advent. Jars will be available in church on Advent Sunday (27th November). At the end of Advent please return the jar with your donation to Jenny Walker.

FSW is also collecting **Christmas foodstuffs** and would welcome donations. This year items are being made up into Christmas gift bags for local families. There will be a collecting box at the back of church. The FSW local support worker would welcome any new toys or gifts suitable for teenagers and these can also be brought along to the Coffee Morning.

Fuel poverty is both serious and widespread in Sussex affecting many children and their families, so FSW is asking for your help. If you are eligible for a Winter Fuel Payment but feel you do not need it, please consider donating some of it to help vulnerable children in Sussex this year. You will find cards with information about how to do this on the table in the Annexe, or ask Jenny Walker for details. *Jenny Walker*

ADVENT PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

It happens every year. I think that this will be the year that I have a reflective advent.

I look forward to Sunday and this new season, but all around me are the signs rushing me to Christmas and some kind of celebration that equates spending with love.

I need your help. I want to slow my world down. This year, more than ever, I need Advent, these weeks of reflection and longing for hope in the darkness.

This year, help me to have that longing. Help me to feel it in my heart and be aware of the hunger and thirst in my own soul. Deep down, I know there is something missing in my life, but I can't quite reach for it. I can't get what is missing.

I know it is about you, Jesus. You are not missing from my life, but I may be missing the awareness of all the places you are present.

Be with me, my dear friend. Guide me in these weeks to what you want to show me this advent. Help me to be vulnerable enough to ask you to lead me to the place of my own weakness, the very place where I will find you the most deeply embedded in my heart, loving me without limits.

AMEN

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