

- o Anne will be available on Friday; Andrew is on his Christmas leave.
- o The office will be open Wednesday morning and Friday morning only this week.
- o All members of St Nicolas' are encouraged to share in some part of the Daily Prayer – just go to our website and click on:

 CofE Daily Prayers

MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> **Christmas Day**  
9 am Morning Prayer  
**10 am FAMILY COMMUNION**

FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> Thomas Becket, archbishop, martyr, 1170  
10:30am-1:30pm Festive Feast in the Community Centre  
**11 am Morning Prayer & Eucharist** psalm 19 page 612

SUNDAY 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER: **FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**  
10 am **SUNG EUCHARIST** (the only service today)

### Notices

If you would like to come along to the **FESTIVE LUNCH in the Community Centre this Friday**, please let Marian (564069) or the Parish Office know. The lunch will start as usual at 11.30am and go on until 1.30pm. To cover the festive food the cost will be £7 with all profits to USPG as usual.

In partnership with Guildford United Reformed Church & a member of the cluster group with St Saviour's and Holy Trinity & St Mary's, Guildford; sharing the church with Upper Room Ministries.

Keeping in touch  
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For local news see *The Guildford Dragon*  
[www.guildford-dragon.com](http://www.guildford-dragon.com)

# WEEKLY LEAFLET for 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017 Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Eve



**9 am Morning Prayer**

**10am Eucharist**  
together with Upper Room Ministries

*This is the Eucharist of the Sunday and will involve no singing except an unaccompanied hymn (from the New English Hymnal) at the beginning and at the end. As it will be simple and quiet this might be a good way to prepare for the coming Christmas celebration.*

*(As usual, do please ask one of the sides-people before the Offertory if you need to receive gluten free holy communion.)*

### The Gathering

HYMN 39

Anne: + We meet in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



the World Community  
for Christian Meditation



## Living with the Mystics

A Study Day to explore  
**The Quaker Way**

Speaker: Andrew Norman

Andrew has been Rector of St Nicolas' Church, Guildford since 1993 and is now also a practising Quaker. 'Faith is not static for any of us. As many people find, growing older I have come to believe in less - but to believe more trustfully. Of all the ways to look for God, I've discovered that what works for me is the simple Quaker way of sitting quietly with others, waiting on the spirit, speaking as prompted, and holding others 'in the light.'



George Fox (1624-1691) was an English Dissenter and a founder of the Religious Society of Friends, commonly known as the Quakers. The son of a Leicestershire weaver, Fox lived in a time of great social upheaval and war. He rebelled against the religious and political authorities by proposing an unusual and uncompromising approach to the Christian faith. He travelled throughout Britain as a dissenting preacher for which he was often persecuted by the authorities who disapproved of his beliefs. As his ministry expanded he undertook tours of North America and the Low Countries. Between these tours, he was imprisoned for more than a year. He spent the final decade of his life working in London to organise the expanding Quaker movement. While his movement attracted disdain from some, others such as William Penn and Oliver Cromwell viewed Fox with respect.

**Saturday 6th January 2018**

10:30am - 3:30 pm

St Nicolas' Church, Guildford

- \* Open to all
- \* Bring your own lunch - tea & coffee provided from 10am
- \* No charge - suggested donation £10

For more information

please call Ray or Vicky Lamb on 01252 705064

or contact St Nicolas' Parish Office ([parishoffice@saintnics.com](mailto:parishoffice@saintnics.com)) 01483 564 526

## The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

*Welcome & Introduction*

## Prayers of Penitence

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

*Please remain standing for the Collect.*

## The Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

*Please sit for the reading. Today's reader is Julia Andrew.*

### First reading (2 Peter 3:8-15a)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, **alleluia, alleluia.**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## Gospel Reading (Luke 1:26-38)

The Lord be with you.  
**and also with you.**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for

ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

## The Bishop of Guildford's Christmas message

*read by Andrew & followed by a time of quiet*

## The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven, [we may bow our heads]  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit  
and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the  
living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is  
worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and  
apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the  
forgiveness of sins  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

*Kneel or please stay standing for the prayers now.*

## Prayers of Intercession

*led by Bishop Albina and Andy Lorimer of Upper Room*

Jesus, born in a human family:  
we pray for ... (*families*)  
Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, cradled in a manger:  
we pray for ... (*homeless, refugees*)  
Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, sharing the stable with the animals:  
we pray for ... (*the creation*)  
Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings:  
we pray for ... (*nations, races, peoples*)  
Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer.**

Jesus, our Emmanuel:  
we pray for ... (*those in particular need*)  
Lord Jesus,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Silence for our own prayers*

*Anne:* Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

*Please stand as we exchange a handshake as a Sign of Peace*

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

*A collection is taken for the work of the church, and the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar.*

### Preparation of the Table

Blessed are you O God, spirit of life,  
in your goodness we have these gifts to share,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

### The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
He is the one foretold by all the prophets,  
whom the Virgin Mary bore with love beyond all telling.  
John the Baptist was his herald  
and made him known when at last he came.  
In his love Christ fills us with joy  
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
so that when he comes again  
he may find us watching in prayer,  
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.  
And so, with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your glory,  
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The bell rings as a sign that you might like to kneel in the mystery of Christ's presence.*

*... Christ is the bread of life:*

**When we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

*The Prayer continues and we all respond boldly: Amen.*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

### Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God:  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins:  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world:  
give us your peace.**

### Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.  
**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

We offer the grace of this communion for the poor, the homeless, those suffering from war and hunger, and of the earth so exploited, ravaged and harmed by humanity.  
*from 'God is Green' by Robert Shore-Goss*

*The bell rings as a sign to come for communion or a blessing.  
All who usually receive Holy Communion are welcome to do so, others to come for a blessing.*

### Prayer After Communion

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

### Lighting of the fourth Advent Candle: *Mary*

*As we light our Advent candles in anticipation of celebrating the coming of the Christ child, we join with USPG in praying for mothers and children who are served by the mission world church.*

O God of promise,  
whose mother Mary carried your Christ in an occupied land;  
we pray for mothers in the Holy Land  
who today live with restrictions and violence.  
Bless the church-run hospitals that serve them  
and their children  
regardless of race, religion or financial status.  
**Amen.**

*The candle is lit.*

With love and compassion, **come, Lord Jesus.**  
With judgement and mercy, **come, Lord Jesus.**  
In power and glory, **come, Lord Jesus.**  
In wisdom and truth, **come, Lord Jesus.**

### HYMN 19

### Blessing

The Lord be with you.  
**and also with you.**

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.  
**Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Common Worship* material included here is copyright *Times & Seasons* © The Archbishops' Council.

## **Remember the homeless at this time of the year**

If you are able to, please consider donating warm clothing, sleeping bags and food to Guildford Action who are located next to Waitrose's car park. Year long they provide food and facilities during the daytime for people who have no home and seeming, because there is 'no room at the inn', are forced to sleep outside wherever they can find some degree of shelter.

