

ST ANDREW'S GRAFHAM

Newsletter December 2020

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Services in December

6th December 10.45am	Morning Prayer	Book of Common Prayer
13th December 10.45am	Holy Communion	Book of Common Prayer
SATURDAY 19th DECEMBER 5pm	OUTDOOR CAROL SERVICE	IN THE CHURCHYARD
20th December 10.45am	Holy Communion	Common Worship
CHRISTMAS EVE 11.30pm	MIDNIGHT MASS	OUTDOORS
CHRISTMAS DAY 10.45pm	FAMILY COMMUNION SERVICE	OUTDOORS
27th December 10.45am	Holy Communion	Book of Common Prayer

As we were finalising this Newsletter we were delighted to hear that public worship can resume after 2nd December and will be permitted to continue whichever tier we are in (although subject to slightly different provisions). Nevertheless Christmas at St Andrew's is going to be different this year. Please keep an eye on our mailings and website for up to date information.

Advent is coming!



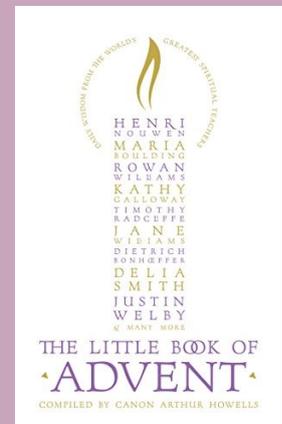
The Christmas celebrations are almost inevitably going to be different this year. Perhaps though a 'pared back' festival means that we will have more time to remember the true focus of Christmas – God taking on human flesh and coming to share our life on earth with us.

But before Christmas is Advent. A time when traditionally we reflect on our lives and prepare for the coming of God among us.

Many of us choose to do a little extra reading as part of that spiritual preparation. It hasn't been possible this year to browse the new books on offer for Advent so Camilla's suggestions come mainly from what is already on her bookshelves.

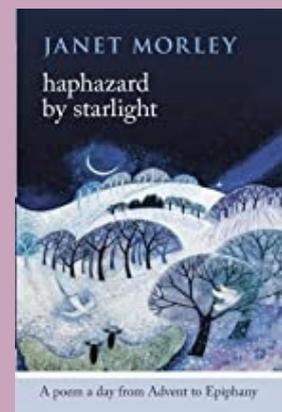
If you'd like something for each day then you might try:

The Little Book of Advent compiled by Arthur Howells which is a collection of passages from several of the great spiritual writers of our time with a Scripture reading and a prayer for each day as well. It may introduce you to spiritual writers who you don't know and encourage you to explore their writings more. (published by William Collins 2015 ISBN 978-0-00-814079-3)



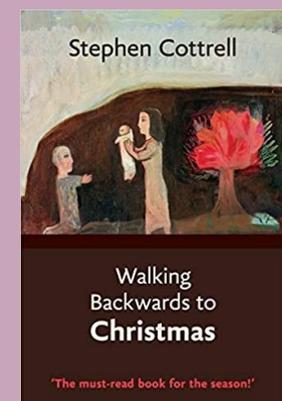
or

Haphazard by Starlight by Janet Morley which offers a poem each day from Advent to Epiphany accompanied by a reflection (published by SPCK 2013 ISBN 978-0-281-07062-6)



If you'd prefer to read a book at your own pace during Advent then you might like:

Walking Backwards Towards Christmas by Stephen Cottrell, who is now Archbishop of York. It is an unusual approach to the Christmas story as it is seen through the eyes of various people who are directly involved and beyond. Published by SPCK 2014 ISBN 978-0-281-07147-0)



Advent Quiet Afternoon

On **Wednesday 2nd December** Camilla will be offering a time for reflection with two short talks and guidance on how to use the space between them to help us as we prepare spiritually for Christmas.

The theme is 'From Darkness into Light'.

If you've never been to a Quiet Day before, this might be a good time to try.

The session will be on Zoom from 2.00pm until 4.30pm. If you would like to come please book by contacting Camilla (camillawhite@waitrose.com) by 30th November and she will send you the Zoom link and a handout after that.



Christmas at St Andrew's



We want to make sure that we have room for everybody who would like be with us so we are going to hold our three Christmas services in the churchyard. Please come prepared with warm clothes (it's fine to wear hats and gloves during the service), rugs or blankets, hot drinks and even hot water bottles!

We've a number of chairs but if you are under a 'certain age' please come prepared to stand or bring your own chair so that anybody who needs a seat can have one.

We are working on what to do if it rains but are planning to go ahead outside whatever happens (!) though hopefully with adequate covering. You might need umbrellas and Wellies though!

On Saturday 19th December we will hold our Carol Service at 5pm and on Christmas Eve Midnight Mass will start at 11.30pm. Fairly obviously it is going to be dark! We'll have some lighting in the churchyard but please make sure you have a torch(es) both for the walk from the car park and to help you see the order of service.



IN SEARCH OF OUR KNEELING PLACES

In each heart lies a Bethlehem,
an inn where we must ultimately answer
whether there is room or not.
When we are Bethlehem-bound
we experience our own advent in his.
When we are Bethlehem-bound
we can no longer look the other way
conveniently not seeing stars
not hearing angel voices.
We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily
tending our sheep or our kingdoms.

This Advent let's go to Bethlehem
and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us.
In the midst of shopping sprees
let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.
Through the tinsel
let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.
In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos,
let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.
This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem
and find our kneeling places.

From 'Kneeling in Bethlehem' by Ann Weems

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

The Christmas spirit
is that hope
which tenaciously clings
to the hearts of the faithful
and announces
in the face
of any Herod the world can produce
and all the inn doors slammed in our faces
all the dark nights of our souls
that with God
all things still are possible,
that even now
unto us
a Child is born!

From 'Kneeling in Bethlehem' by Ann Weems

A loo at St Andrew's!

The great news is that we have finally been granted a Faculty (a sort of church planning permission) for a composting toilet in the churchyard. We've placed an order with the company supplying it and hope it will be ready for delivery in mid January. The date for the grand opening has yet to be fixed!



Cranleigh Foodbank

Many people are going to find this Christmas difficult financially. Please continue to support your local foodbank if you can, wherever you are. You might like to include some seasonal treats with your usual donations though possibly give the mince pies a miss, as in the past the Cranleigh Foodbank has been overwhelmed with them!

You can make donations via the trolleys in Sainsbury's or the Co-op in Cranleigh and we are also planning to have a collection of items at St Andrew's on Sunday 13th December. Camilla is happy to receive donations at home and will deliver them to the foodbank

A poster for a 'Nativity Winter Walk' event. The background is a photograph of a family (a man carrying a child on his shoulders, a woman, and a young child) standing in a grassy field. In the foreground, a woman dressed as the Virgin Mary in a blue robe and headscarf stands next to a man dressed as Joseph in a red and orange robe, who is leading a donkey. The text 'Nativity Winter Walk' is written in large white letters across the middle. At the top, the logo for 'WINTERSHALL Experience the story' is visible. At the bottom, the dates '18 - 21 Dec 2020' and the website 'www.wintershall.org.uk' with the phone number '01483 892167' are listed.

WINTERSHALL
Experience the story

Nativity Winter Walk

18 - 21 Dec 2020

www.wintershall.org.uk
01483 892167

Contact details:

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