

~~ A REMINDER ~~

Have you signed the Parish Christmas Card?
 The idea is to avoid having piles of Christmas cards on the table.
 Just write your Christmas greeting on our Parish Card and put the money you
 would have spent on buying cards for each other into the collection tin.
 All proceeds to the Countess Mountbatten Hospice.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

The Salvation Army, North East Road, Sholing, are providing Christmas Day lunch again this year for anyone who is on their own. If you are interested in joining them, please call 02380 438713 to register.



PARISH MAGAZINE
 The December/January Christmas edition is now available on the church table. Please help yourself to a copy.

A REMINDER that there is a church incident book in the right hand drawer of the desk in the vestry by the war memorial. If anything happens to you which could affect your safety or the safety of someone with you, please write the details in this book so they can be reviewed by the safeguarding team.
 Also, by law, any accidents happening in the Church or Hall must be recorded. Accident books are now on the large table in the Church, and with the first aid box in the Hall kitchen. If anyone has an accident in either building they must, please, fill in an accident form in the book. Help is available from the Churchwarden (or ask any member of the clergy) to complete the form.

THE ADVENT CANDLE SONG

Light the Advent candle, one;
 Now the waiting has begun;
 We have started on our way,
 Time to think of Christmas Day.



Light the Advent candle, two;
 Think of humble shepherds, who
 Filled with wonder at the sight
 Of the child on Christmas night.

Light the Advent candle, three;
 Think of heavenly harmony;
 Angels singing "Peace on earth"
 At the blessed Saviour's birth.

**Candle, candle, burning bright,
 Shining in the cold winter night;
 Candle, candle, burning bright,
 Fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

 * **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** *
 * If you would like to make a *
 * donation towards the cost of *
 * Christmas flowers, please contact *
 * Liz Spencer-Fleet (80560055). *

CHRISTMAS LEAFLETS

These are now available on the table.
 There are still one or two streets which are not covered at the moment. Can you spare an hour or two to help? If so, please help yourself to a bundle.

	<p>AT PEAR TREE CHURCH WE AIM TO LOVE GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOURS</p> <p>The <u>Purpose</u> of the Church in Pear Tree is to provide a place of worship where all people are welcome and encouraged to experience God's love in faith and prayer; where we will reach out as witnesses to discover the needs of the local and wider communities using our gifts and resources and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit</p>	<p>SUNDAY 17th DECEMBER 2017</p> <hr/> <p>3rd Sunday of Advent</p>
<p>Priest-in-Charge - Revd Miles Newton, 117 Swift Road, Woolston SO19 9ER ☎ 023 80441124</p>		

10.00 a.m. WORSHIP TOGETHER with Nativity - Revd Miles Newton

Hymns: MP 631, 204, 697, 708
Communion: 420, 162
Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28
 See overleaf



6.30 p.m. Christmas Carol Service at St. Mark's

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCE

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. (John 1:1)

COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS IN THE CHURCH HALL AFTER THE 10.00 a.m. SERVICE



John 1:6-8,19-28

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptise if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

"I baptise with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

~~ TODAY ~~

A warm welcome to our friends from St. Mark's Church, Woolston, who are worshipping with us today at our 10.00 a.m. service.

Also ... a reminder that a Christmas Carol Service will be held at 6.30 p.m. at St. Mark's Church, Weston Grove Road, Woolston. All welcome.

~~ THANK YOU ~~

... to those who supported the Carols by Candlelight in Pear Tree and the CTI Christmas Carol Service at the Salvation Army Hall last Sunday.

.... to those who took part in the Christmas Carol Singing at Residential Homes in and around the parish during the past two weeks.

CHRISTMAS WEEK IN PEAR TREE

- MON 18 DEC** 10.00 a.m. Crafty Coffee Morning in the Church Hall - all welcome
- TUE 19 DEC** 10.00 a.m. Ludlow Junior School Christmas Carol Service in the Church
- WED 20 DEC** 10.00 a.m. Ludlow Junior School Christmas Carol Service in the Church
- SUN 24 DEC** **CHRISTMAS EVE**
10.00 a.m. Parish Worship
4.30 p.m. Christingle Service
11.00 p.m. Midnight Communion
- MON 25 DEC** **CHRISTMAS DAY**
10.00 a.m. Worship Together at St. Mark's Church
NO SERVICE AT PEAR TREE
- SUN 31 DEC** **1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**
10.00 a.m. Worship Together at Pear Tree



PEAR TREE PRAYER TREE

Today, as part of our cycle of prayer, we pray for all those who find Christmas to be a time of pain or bereavement; those who are lonely, who have no family to call upon them or visit; those who have no food or shelter from the cold weather; those who do not know God or recognise the saving grace of his Son, Jesus Christ.

We also remember the bereaved and the housebound, all those known to you who may be ill at home or in hospital and all those who care for them.

In particular, please continue to pray for the Ockelford family, Les Beard, Dave and Joanne Isaacs, Win Stead, Mary Stone, Rosemary Nutburn, Arthur Collins, Mary Hallerton, John Burrows, Bethany Mullen, Bill Kerr, Alan and Margaret Harding, baby Leo, Ian Fry, Aimee, Fred and Edith.

DON'T FORGET

2018 Pear Tree/St. Mark's diaries are available on the table, price £1.