

~~ 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 into the collection tin. All proceeds to the Countess Mountbatten Hospice.

~~ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ~~

Friday 11th January Family Fun Disco Evening, 6.00-7.30 p.m. in the Church Hall, with disco music provided by Sladey's Entertainment. Cost: £5 per family, including refreshments. Contact Pat Hawkins (80438103) to book.

Sunday 13th January Churches Together in Itchen AGM at 5.00 p.m. in St. Patrick's Church Hall. All welcome.

Friday 25th/Saturday 26th January Players' Theatre production of "Cinderella" at 7.00 p.m. in the Church Hall. Adults £6, children £4, family £16 (2A, 2C). Box office - 07719239209 or 07946189761, or www.playerstheatre.weebly.com.

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.

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

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.

Light the Advent candle, four;
Think of joy for evermore;
Christchild in a stable born,
Gift of love that Christmas morn.



AT PEAR TREE CHURCH WE AIM TO LOVE
GOD AND OUR NEIGHBOURS

The Purpose 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

SUNDAY
23rd
DECEMBER
2018

4th Sunday
of Advent

Priest-in-Charge - Revd Miles Newton, 117 Swift Road, Woolston SO19 9ER
☎ 023 80441124

10.00 a.m.

PARISH COMMUNION
- Revd John Hodgson

Hymns: BBC 55, 43, 35, 48
Readings: Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-55
See overleaf



INTRODUCTORY SENTENCE

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour." (Luke 1:46)

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.**

POST 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.**



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



Hebrews 10:5-10

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.

Then I said, ‘Here I am, it is written about me in the scroll, I have come to do your will, my God.’”

First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”, though they were offered in accordance with the law. Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Luke 1:39-55

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!”

And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me, holy is his name.
His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.
He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful
to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

~~ THANK YOU ~~

.... to Pat Hawkins and all those who took part in our excellent Nativity Service last Sunday.

.... to those who took part in the carol singing at various Residential Homes in the area during the past week.

CHRISTMAS WEEK IN PEAR TREE

MON 24 DEC CHRISTMAS EVE

4.30 p.m. Christingle Service
11.00 p.m. Midnight Communion

TUE 25 DEC CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00 a.m. Worship Together Service at Pear Tree Church

SUN 30 DEC 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10.00 a.m. Worship Together Service at St. Mark’s Church

NO SERVICE AT PEAR TREE CHURCH



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, Win Stead, Aimee, Edith, Emily Thomas, Joan Dunnings, Jenna and Rosemary Nutburn.

Please also pray for the family and friends of Mrs Vi Quinton, a former member of our congregation, who passed into God’s keeping last week at the age of 109.

DON’T FORGET

2019 diaries are now available on the table, price £1.

FOR INFORMATION

The Christmas Tree of Light in Woolston Millennium Garden raised over £1400 for Communicare funds. Thank you to all who supported this event.