



[Home - St Philip's Cambridge](#)

1st December 2023

Dear all,

Happy New Year! Well, that's what we will be saying on Sunday. The first Sunday of Advent marks the start of a new year for the church. You may well think it's a strange time to start a new year but I think what better time than in anticipation of a birth. Without getting into the hotly debated details, I think we can all agree that a new baby's life does not begin only when they are born but in all the preparations to get ready for that birth and the biological growth that goes on in the preceding months. The events that happen in anticipation of that day of birth are actually where the story starts and so they also mark the beginning of a new year for us following Jesus. Preparing to celebrate his coming to live among us, his life and teaching and ultimately his death and resurrection defining our relationship with God. It is why many people have redefined the candles on an Advent Wreath – the tradition is that we light one more each Sunday as we draw nearer to Christmas Day and historically people have remembered first the patriarchs of our faith, then the prophets, then John the Baptist and finally Mary before we light the special central candle for the arrival of the light of the world – the Christ candle. But more recently people have found it helpful to focus on some core tenets of our faith as we prepare for a new year: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. As we prepare ourselves for a new year of following Jesus let's take a moment each week to think how these characteristics of God are evident in our lives. What is it you hope for? How does God shape your hope?

All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs.

But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

Romans 8:22-25 The Message

News and Upcoming Events

Saturday 2nd December - Mill Road Winter Fair come and join the festivities or simply to feast your ears on all the choirs singing at St P's throughout the day. Carol Singing from 3pm.

Monday 4th December – 3.30pm – St Philip's School Christingle If any of you are fans of the service often described as "the one with the orange" and would like to come help at the school for this you are more than welcome.

Wednesday 6th & 13th December – 7pm - Advent Reflection Evenings If you would like to take some more time this Advent to sit with part of the narrative of Christmas then do join us in **The Vicarage** for these two evenings where we will be delving deeper into those 9 months of waiting immediately prior to Jesus' birth. We will also be zooming both these evenings. ***note the change of venue*** Please do let me know if you'd like to come so I can make sure there are enough chairs! And if you'd like the zoom link please also drop me a line

Saturday 16th December – 2.30pm – Brook House Carols Come and join us as we go sing carols with the residents of Brook House, no singing expertise required but enthusiasm strongly encouraged. Please let Ruth know if you are planning on joining us to bless the lovely residents of Brook House.

Are you an informal carer? Carers Connected is run by the Christian charity, Embracing Age, for informal carers looking after a loved one. It offers friendly Zoom gatherings for mutual support, encouragement and prayer. It has been variously described by carers as 'a lifesaver', 'the highlight of my week', 'a gently welcoming oasis', 'something

just for me'. For further information go to www.embracingage.org.uk/for-carers or contact Sarah via carers@embracingage.org.uk or 07964 895477.

Wednesday 20th December – 6.30pm - Cambridge United Carols Under the Abbey Lights – CU players, staff, sponsors and a great number of supporters will be attending. There will be street food and drinks available, as well as a Christmas market before and after the Carol Service. (Market opening at 5.30pm) Tickets are £5 for over 16s and £1 for under 16s. You can buy your tickets here: [CU Carols](#)

2 Friends of the Cam events happening at St Philip's Church

29th Nov, talk about Antarctica with discussion, food and drink: book tickets here - [antarctica-tickets](#)

13th Dec, film about the Cam with discussion, food and drink: book tickets here - [pure-clean-water-tickets](#)

Vacancies:

St Philip's School are looking for – Cleaners, Midday Assistants and a Site and Premises Manager

You can find more details on their website: [St Philips School Vacancies](#)

If this is not for you, please do consider passing on the information to someone who is either looking for some part-time term-time work or who has a passion for site management in an education setting!

Eco-Bite – our new green “nugget” each week:

If you are planning on having a real Christmas tree this year (and many of you may have already ordered one through schools raising money in this way!) bookings are already open for recycling your tree. If you plan this through Arthur Rank Hospice you can also help them raise money and the trees get chipped and used again in parks or as mulch. Book here: [Christmas Tree Recycling - Arthur Rank Hospice Charity \(arhc.org.uk\)](#) (Other green options for trees coming over the next few weeks!)

Last Week's sermon

In case you missed it and want to catch up: [sermon 26.11.23.mp3](#)

If you want to catch up on any other sermons: [sermons.stphilipchurch.org.uk](#)

This Sunday 3rd December – Advent 1

8.30am – Reflective Holy Communion – Readings will be: Psalm 80:1-8, Mark 13:24-end

10.30am – All Age Worship – This week our Ordinand Rebecca will be helping us explore what this whole Advent business is all about and why we don't just jump to Christmas!

7.30pm – The Chosen – Our final episode before Christmas

If you can't attend church in person you can always use this Zoom link:

meeting ID: 976 3739 9129 and Passcode: 330714

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/97637399129?pwd=TGhKWwXOcWF1S242aVhrWDJdUkxZz09>

Regular Weekly events to join:

Friday 12noon Lunchtime Bible Club A relaxed look at the bible passage/s for the upcoming Sunday. Bring along a packed lunch and explore scripture whilst eating lunch together.

Wednesday 12noon Reflective Holy Communion. A quiet time to help find space and peace in the middle of the week.

Monday & Friday 8.30pm – Compline on zoom

Meeting ID: 836 5965 9953

Passcode: 749968

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83659659953?pwd=btP5AjGMu1s-dE_2W9T0MMFqnnPKSS.1

Wednesday 10.30-12noon & Friday 1.30-3.00 – Wednesday & Friday Friends

Both are “Warm Spaces” with Tea/coffee, cake/biscuits and chat Just turn up if you'd like to join us for a cuppa/read the paper/do some of the jigsaw/knit/colour/sit quietly watching the world go by.

Wednesdays 7.00-7.30pm - Weekly Prayers on zoom:

Meeting ID: 852 1105 2733 Password: 397987

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85211052733?pwd=OE52bm9NS1RtQVQ0ZytTc0xBZnVsUT09>

Saturdays 8.15am - Morning Bible Discussion and Prayer on zoom:

Meeting ID: 143 338 655 Password: 824271

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/143338655?pwd=L1JJTFZJNU9EaFZjaUFjQzVlalpMZZ09>

Prayers

If any of you have specific prayers you would like us to include in this newsletter do please get in touch.

Stella O'Keefe Sadly Stella's sister Carolyn died earlier this week. Please hold Stella in your prayers as she comes to terms with this loss and praise God that they were able to spend some time together a few weeks ago.

The family of Victor Selmes who has sadly died. Please pray for them as they prepare for his funeral on 6th December

Alistair Barry and family as they prepare for his mother's funeral on 12th December

Rebecca Lawes is home praise God! Please continue to pray for her recovery and for the whole family as they recover after such an exhausting few months.

Please also pray for our Mission Partner this month:



Cambridge Money Advice Centre - was founded in 2004 as a practical Christian response to the growing problem of debt in both Cambridge and the country as a whole. Since then, trained volunteers have helped hundreds of people escape the trap of debt and regain control of their lives.

With love and prayers
Ruth

Need to unsubscribe? Email Bekki: bekki@theclarks.biz