

PRAYERS

We thank you lord for the promising developments towards a vaccine for Covid-19, and pray that all vulnerable people throughout the world will be able to take advantage of this life giving work.

We remember all who ask for our prayers and those who are unwell. We particularly remember **Graham Webster, Nick Ward, Jennifer Morshead, Eileen, Sally Calvert, Nicky, Sandy, Ron Backhouse, Beryl, Mary Clarke, Douglas James, Win, Betty, Clare, Joan, Finlay Relf**, and all who are still very vulnerable and continuing to shield, including Zofia Golebiowska.

We pray for those who have died recently, particularly **Joan Probert, Christian Schembri and Ashley Waite**. May their families know God's comfort. We also remember all those who are mourning the anniversary of a loved one's death. Joan Probert's funeral will be on 1st December at Randall's Road Crematorium.

Christmas Hampers: Thank you for your response so far for our annual Christmas hampers in Capel. We have now learnt of a few more families who need our help, so an extra sheet for 4 more hampers has been added and is in the church. If you able to, please do sign up to give something.

Gifts for Christ Church Brixton: Many of you will have heard that Revd Tim Jeffries sadly died in the summer. We have been asked if we would donate about 30 gifts once more for the people at their Christmas party. Gifts should be for adult men and women and labeled with the type of person they are for. Please leave your gifts in church by December 13th.

Comfort and Joy: The church of England has produced an advent package called 'Comfort & Joy' for 2020. There will be booklets available in our churches using this theme, and there is a countdown to Christmas list helping us to focus on different things that bring us joy at this time of year and other things that we can do to give people comfort. If you would like to download this it can be found here: https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/COFE_02977_AdventCalendar-ComfortandJoy_v4.pdf

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The Parish of Capel & Ockley

Sunday 29th November 2020

First Sunday of Advent

Welcome to your church



There are no services today as we continue the second lockdown. Capel church is open for private prayer every day between 9am and 4pm. Services will restart in our churches next Sunday 6th December.

DECEMBER (subject to restrictions)

Saturday 5th **Community Decorate the Christmas trees**
times are staggered so please follow published guidelines

Sunday 6th **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
9.30am Service of Matins at Ockley
10.30am Family Communion at Capel

Today we begin a new Church year - year B in the Church of England Lectionary - when we follow the gospel readings according to Mark. It is also the First Sunday of Advent - Advent Sunday - which I always find such a special day with its dramatic readings of light and darkness, of life and death. Readings of reassurance however, that despite the apocalyptic nature of the texts, there is great hope and assurance that all things will be renewed and transformed into God's amazing glory. It is also what I call my personal Christian birthday - I am twenty seven years old today!! Advent Sunday 1993 marked the beginning of a new adventure for me, the beginning of my Christian journey. I remember it well. Yes, I was a nominal Christian before that, having my children christened, sporadic attendance at church, but that year after the recent loss of our third daughter, I searched urgently for 'the truth' and eventually found for myself the living God. The readings on that Advent Sunday were the culmination of all of that and over a period of two or three days where I felt my particular world was coming to an end, there was a new world within me beginning. I realised that something had changed within myself and the rest as they say is history. I certainly would never have dreamt I would end up as a vicar!! God certainly has a sense of humour and is a God of surprises. This is not to say I don't have doubts and challenges in my faith. I do. But however tough things are, somehow God transforms these experiences and uses them through our ministry to one another and the plans he has for each one of us. So enjoy these readings this week, enjoy Bishop Andrew's sermon transcript or listen to him online through our parish website, and know that just as winter comes the Spring is preparing to follow. At the end of another difficult week for many in our nation keep these thoughts in mind. Know that God has a plan for you even though the days may seem long and dark at this time of the year. As the Collect for today says, 'give us grace to cast away the word of darkness and put on the armour of light'. I can't wait to see many of you in church next Sunday and thereafter. In the meantime, keep safe and God bless you. Liz.

For all Services & Events

<https://www.capelandockleychurch.org.uk/events-calendar/>