

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Sun	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Church Parade
	Readings:	'Light of Hope' Jeremiah 33: 14-16 & Luke 21: 25-36
	3pm	Christmas Choir rehearsal
	6.30pm	No service
Mon	9:30am-noon	Coffee Morning at SJ's
	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting at SJ's
Tue	6.15pm	CRU2 (Urban Saints)(Yrs 3-5)at the Assembly Rooms
	7.00pm	Club 2000 (Yrs 6-9) meet at Coney Hill Baptist Church
Wed	1pm-4pm	CareerCafé drop-in at SJ's
	4pm-7pm	CareerCafé appointments
Thurs	7.30pm	14+ in church
Fri	10am	Craft Club at SJ's

NEXT SUNDAY – 9th December

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Parish Communion
	No Christmas Choir rehearsal
6.30pm	No service



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

When Jezebel was persecuting the Lord's prophets, Obadiah (not the prophet Obadiah) conceived a cunning plan. What did he do?

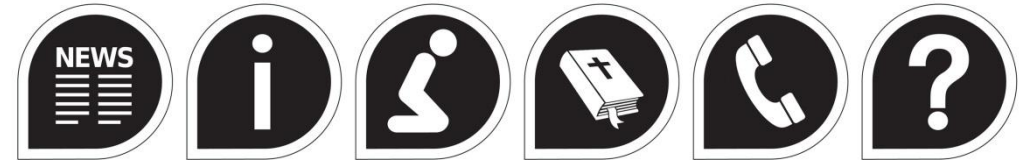
Read 1 Kings 18: 4

MONDAY EVENING PRAYER MEETINGS 8pm @ SJ's

In December the meetings will take place on 3rd & 17th. All welcome.



2nd December 2018
1st Sunday of Advent



ADVENT ENCOURAGEMENT

We are often invited during the season of advent to step away from the bustle of the season and run from the maw of the monster mammon – all with a view to connecting more deeply with God. It's good advice, and supposed to offer encouragement. But I suspect many of us struggle to follow the guidance. Instead, the advent invitation can leave us with feelings of guilt and frustration. Control of our diary at this time of year seems laughable, and we're often running to stand still...

If that strikes a chord with you and your spiritual pulse feels like it beating a little faintly, then draw some advent solace from these words from C S Lewis:

"What seem our worst prayers may really be, in God's eyes, our best. Those which are least supported by devotional feeling...these may come from a deeper level than feeling. God sometimes seems to speak to us most intimately when he catches us, as it were, off our guard."

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WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time today and wish to find out more about what goes on then introduce yourself to one of our leadership team, or **fill in one of our Connect Cards**. Equally, help yourself to any of our packs, which explain a bit more of what's going on in our church family.



ADVENT QUIET EVENING

Tuesday 11 December, 7:00-9:00pm in church

What does it mean to be prepared for an encounter with Jesus? On one level, we hope that is a daily experience. On a different scale, advent reminds us that there will come a time when there will be an even greater immediacy to that encounter. In the meantime, prayer and stopping to take breath are good ways to ready ourselves – so that when the time does come, we will meet a friend, not a stranger.



SHOEBOX PACKING AT MILLY'S

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the shoe boxes. The support of the St John's family is vital in getting the boxes ready.



SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

at the Assembly Halls, Saturday 8th December. 12.30 for 1.00pm.

Help needed

More help is needed, especially for serving food from 12.30 and washing up at 1p.m.

Also providing desserts and lifts. Sign up on Elzbieta's list or contact Sue Blair or Lorna Carey.



NEED CHRISTMAS CARDS?

There is a selection available in the baptistry. Suggested

donation £1.50 for a small pack and £2.50 for a large pack. All proceeds to St John's chosen Christmas charity - Hope Health Action – The Christmas Cradle Appeal.



CHOIR CAROLS FOR BY CANDLELIGHT

Remaining rehearsals will be in church on the following Sundays:
2 December, 3:00-5:00pm
No rehearsal on 9 December, but a rehearsal before the service itself on the 16 December - the time to be confirmed.



CAROLS IN THE PARK

Sunday 9th December from 5.00 p.m.

Meet outside Parklands Nursery in the Recreation Ground.



CHABLIS CHIC

For Christmas in support of Link to Hope!

Tuesday 4th December, 8pm, SJ's

£15 ticket includes all drinks and craft (set of three decoupage ceramic snowflakes). Antipasti, cake and dessert available to purchase on the night. A fun and friendly evening! Tickets can be booked at <https://ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/1965>. Thanks!



STORYTELLING

"T'was the Night Before Christmas" free storytelling and play at **SJ's, 10am, Saturday**

22nd December. Optional craft (make a wooden Christmas Eve box) prebookable at <https://ticketlab.co.uk/event/id/2242>



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S NEWSLETTER

Please see separate sheet for Amber's update.



CHRISTINGLES

Collection candles are available in the porch for anyone to take away, hopefully fill with money, then bring back to one of the services on Christmas Eve at 3pm or 5pm.



PRAYERS

Please pray for:

- Hope Health Action (HHA) - The Christmas Cradle Appeal – our mission focus this month;
- How we use the season of advent - to be more than just a march to the consumer tune;
- Our hospitality as a church, as we host lots of people from our community over the festive season;
- Christine Blackburn, and others we know facing treatment or illness;
- The delivery of the shoeboxes that they will have a special impact on those who receive them;
- Our government, especially Theresa May, as she presents her Brexit deal to Parliament.