

**Please note:** There is just one service on the 23rd which will be a 10am Holy Communion. Also there will be no morning or evening prayer or Communion on Boxing Day, no prayer space on Thursday 27th December and no morning prayer on 31st December.

**Funeral for Jessica Good** This will take place on Thursday 3rd January, 11am, at St Nicholas' Church, followed by the committal at Vinters Park Crematorium and a reception at the Grange Moor Hotel. Whilst this is a sad occasion as we feel the loss of a much loved member of our church community, the family would welcome all who knew Jessica to join them to give thanks for her life. **Rev Chris**

### **Crib Services, 24th December**

**3.00pm and 4.30pm** Come dressed as your favourite Nativity character to 'play your part!'



### **Christingle, Bonfire & Bangers**

Sunday 6th January 2019, 5pm Join us for our Christingle Service followed by Bonfire (a chance to burn your Christmas Trees—real only!) and Bangers (sausages!!!) \* **Christingle tubes can be collected from the back of church now \***

### **Church Quiz, 19th January 2019**

Yes, it is the popular sausage\* and chips at St Nicholas, in aid of Church funds. Table team of 6-8. £7 per person. If you can get a team of friends together please do contact Marianna to reserve a table. Individuals are very welcome and we can make up table numbers.

marianna2@compuserve.com, 01622 751243 or Parish Administrator

\*vegetarian option tba when booking

### **Oasis Explorers**

During certain services the facility is available for children to have their own time of studying the bible, in the same way that Explorers operates within the Primary Schools. Our Children's and Families Minister, Fiona Higgs, oversees these sessions and the next one is on Sunday 20th January during Oasis Communion.



### **Bible Project**

Please see the poster on the notice board and the flyers at the back of church for the dates and times of next year's study course.



### **Church Office Opening Hours**

With effect from the New Year, the office will be open on Tuesday and Friday 9am to 12noon.



## **St Nicholas' Church**

**Sunday**

**16th December 2018**

### **Services and Events this Sunday**

9.00am-5.00pm Christmas Tree Festival

5.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols

### **and the week ahead**

#### **Monday 17th December**

8.30am Morning Prayer

9.00am-1.00pm Christmas Tree Festival Dismantle

#### **Tuesday 18th December**

9.30am-4.30pm School Carol Services

#### **Wednesday 19th December**

8.30am Morning Prayer

10.00am Holy Communion

7.30pm Evening Prayer

#### **Thursday 20th December**

9.00am Prayer Space

5.30pm CAMRA Curry Club

#### **Sunday 23rd December - 4th of Advent**

10.00am Holy Communion

## December Prayer

'For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given, the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' Isaiah 9:6

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, let's remember His words in John 14:27: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.' Let us pray that in the busyness and anxieties of preparing for Christmas we deliberately make space to connect with our Heavenly Father who made us. We pray especially for those who find this time of year difficult, through loneliness, bad experiences in the past, ill health, financial difficulties. We ask that the peace Jesus gives will reign in their hearts.

As a church, we remember that peace is a wholeness of mind and spirit, a whole heart at rest. It has little to do with external surroundings. Not the absence of trouble, but the presence of God. We ask our Heavenly Father for the Grace to choose peace, not to give way to worry and fear, for the ability to keep things in perspective.

We pray that as we learn to live in the peace God promises us, we can radiate that peace to others- bringing calmness and wisdom to tense situations...being a light in the darkness.

We ask the Lord to reach out to all those who come into the church over the Christmas season, that they may know the love God has for them, that they may choose to follow Jesus. We particularly ask For the power of the Holy Spirit to be with Chris, Barry, Nigel and Fiona as they lead services. ..that God's word will not return to Him void.

In St. Nic's, we have much to thank the Lord for....those engaging in Spring Harvest, the Bible Project, Home Groups, Events in church. We cry out for protection for the whole church as this work continues, let us all be prepared to fight for the truth to continue to be preached.

As the year ends, we praise God for His love and concern for all His church, we remember again all those in distress, those persecuted for their faith, and we are heartfelt in asking for their trials to cease. Let us not ever stop interceding for them and praying for a change of heart in those who persecute them.

'Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you.' 2 Thess.3:16

Amen



### Pray for the sick and anxious

Connie, Daphne, Kay Whittle, Tanay, Liz Boots, Anna, Carol Gray, Stephen Birt and Melvin.

Pray for those who have been bereaved over recent days We pray for the families of Iris Abrams, Derrick King, Jessica Good and Gloria Whyatt.

Pray for our Deanery This month our prayer focus is on the Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter



Pray for our Diocese Please pray for all Authorised Lay Ministers in the Diocese.

Pray for our Residents This week we focus on the residents and businesses in Warden Close, Waterside Gate and Westree Road.

Pray for our Community all at 1st Allington Brownies

Charity for the month of November Mercy Ships



### Cards Available

Baptism, Sympathy, Thank You and Thinking of You cards for sale in the Prayer Corner, £1 each. Please put your payment in the wall safe in the entrance foyer.

### Church Christmas Card Scheme...

Cards are now at the back of church available for signing.

You will then be able to collect your completed card from 19th December.

Any queries to : Margaret & David Salvage  
Tel. 672985 email: dm.salvage@btinternet.com

In support of  
**WaterAid**