



Sunday 8th December – Second Sunday of Advent

This Week's Services & Events

Sunday 8th December	8am BCP Holy Communion	Ash
	9am Morning Worship	Ridley
	10am Holy Communion	Ash
	8am BCP Holy Communion	St Mary Magdalene Longfield
	10.30am Holy Communion	Fawkham & Hartley Church Centre
	<i>Live streamed Service:</i>	https://bit.ly/356qawt
	10.30am Morning Worship	St Mary Magdalene Longfield
	12 Noon Carol Singing	Woodlands Garden Centre
	6pm Six Lessons and Carols	Ridley
Monday 9th December	2.30pm – 4.30pm Chat & Craft	Fawkham & Hartley Church Centre
	<i>Bring a craft or hobby & join together for a chat and refreshments</i>	
Tuesday 10th December	9am Morning Prayer	Zoom
	<i>To join please use the link shown on the Notes and News email</i>	
	10.30am Bible Study Group	Zoom
	<i>Please contact Susan Heads for more info/link (susan@rnwkgroup.org.uk)</i>	
Wednesday 11th December	10.15 – 11.45am Coffee & Chat	St Mary Magdalene Longfield
	8pm Advent Taize Service	Zoom
	<i>To join please use the link shown on the Notes and News email</i>	
Thursday 12th December	9am Morning Prayer	Ash
	10.15am Ash Saplings	Ash
	2pm – 4.30pm The Space	Youth & Community Centre, NAG
	<i>Free and welcome to all - refreshments, company, games & quizzes</i>	
Friday 13th December	9am Morning Prayer	Zoom
	<i>To join please use the link shown on the Notes and News email</i>	
Saturday 14th December	10am Christmas Tree Festival	Ash

Sunday's Readings & Prayers

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.

Old Testament reading: Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in

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righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Gospel reading: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."'

Other reading: Philippians 1:3-11

Post Communion prayer

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Parish Safeguarding Vacancies

We remain without a PSO for Ash and Ridley. This is a vital role in the life of our church and we are not properly equipped for our mission and ministry without one. The Parish Safeguarding Officer is the key link between the diocese and the parish/s,

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concerning safeguarding matters. They have an overview of all church activities involving children, young people and vulnerable adults, and will seek to ensure the implementation of safeguarding policy. The role can be taken by one person or shared, for example with one person covering children the other, for vulnerable adults.

Please pray that the Holy Spirit will stir up the right person for these roles – ***if that might be you and you would like more information please drop me an email or speak with Rhian.***

Advent Zoom Services

On 4th, 11th and 18th December at 8pm we will be holding a Zoom Taize Advent Service. An opportunity to rest and spend some time with God during the busy Christmas preparation period. We will be focusing on Hope, Peace and Joy.

The Zoom link is shown on this week's Notes and News and the church website. I do hope you can be there and please invite others. – *poster attached*

Advent Retreat from St Augustine's

To celebrate the season of Advent, St Augustine's College of Theology is delighted to announce their new Advent Audio Retreat for 2024. Over four weeks, they invite you to join them in listening along to our brand-new series on each of the four Sundays of Advent.

Episode 2: Faith and Fear, on Sunday 8th December will be found on their YouTube Channel;

<https://www.youtube.com/@staugustinescollegeoftheology9801>

Volunteer Carol Singers

Would you be willing to volunteer as a Carol Singer, joining the Choir at **Woodlands Garden Centre on Sunday 8th December.**

We sing between 12:00 and 13:00, raising money for the Ellenor Hospice, song sheets



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will be provided. Come along for an enjoyable fundraising event.

Christmas Tree Festival

This annual fundraising event will be held at Ash church on **14th, 15th & 16th December** this year and we are looking forward to seeing the wonderful imaginative trees. It's not too late to enter your own tree – please see Jean Bentley for details and do encourage your friends and family to come along. – *poster attached*

Ash Christmas Post

With thanks to the Clark family who have offered to run the ever popular Ash Christmas Post this year.

Collection points for cards are Hartley Estates, and at church, with delivery remaining amazing value at just 20p per card.

Last collections will be Sunday 15th of December in church and Wednesday 18th December in Hartley Estates.

If you are willing to help out as a delivery elf they would be very pleased to hear from you; please do get in touch with Cameron.

cameron@cclark.me.uk

Next Sunday's Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-end / Luke 3:7-18