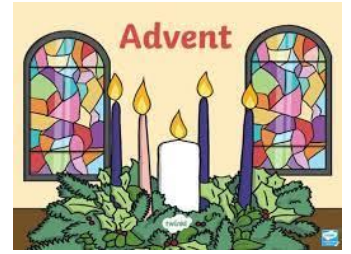


# St Stephen's Norwich



Sunday 10th December

Dear All,

Over the past few days, we have been blessed to have staff and pupils from the Norwich Free School in church. One of the classes wanted to explore what Advent was about and Sam Roberts did an excellent job in telling us that the word Advent is taken from a Latin word meaning "coming". Of course, we look forward to the coming of the Christmas festivities (Advent, like Lent before Easter, was originally a time of fasting), but, more importantly, we look forward to Jesus coming again when we are promised in scripture that He will make all things new (Rev 21:5).

I was reminded in my morning prayers that if you want to wonder at the stars in the sky, you first need to make sure that you have turned off all the other lights that interfere with you seeing the night sky clearly. This is a month of distractions and other lights - the decorations in the City centre and in church to name but two. I am not in any way being a party pooper but during the darkest and, this year anyway, coldest month of the year, let's not get distracted by these other lights - let's remember the real message of Christmas. Christ is with us!

Henri Nouwen sums this up very well in the following prayer:

"Lord Jesus, Master of both light and darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do, seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things, look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways, long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy, seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen

I hope your Christmas preparations are going well - not long now!

Many blessings

Ian

### **What's your favourite Christmas carol?**

This year on the church social media pages we're joining the song and asking you about your favourite carols. Each day leading up to Christmas someone different will share their favourite line from a carol and why. There is still time to join in so if you would like to share please talk to Sam Roberts.

### **Carol Service Choir – Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

John Moore and Gill Shaw are still looking out for people to join the Carol Service Choir. Any singers or musicians that would be interested to join us – we particularly need an extra Alto or two and a bass player would be good. They are meeting at 7:30pm in Church on 29<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> and at 4:30pm on Sat 16<sup>th</sup> to rehearse.

### **Mince Pies needed**

Any donations of mince pies for the carol services on 17<sup>th</sup> December, really appreciated. Please see Lisa or drop off in the Church Office (maybe not on Andy's desk!). Many thanks Lisa.

### **Interested in understanding more about Holy Communion?**

On 12th December at 7.30 - 9.00 a small group will be talking through the origin and practice of Holy Communion. If you would like to come to this one off evening please let Madeline know.

### **Café Friends**

Beckie is looking for more Café Friends to help over the busy Christmas period. A Café Friend is a member of the congregation that would like to talk (and be prepared to pray) with customers who are in the café. They also help out clearing tables, when not needed. It's a brilliant way to meet new people, share God's love as well as be part of the amazing café volunteer team. Contact Beckie [Beckie.ward@ststephensnorwich.org](mailto:Beckie.ward@ststephensnorwich.org)

### **Thank you from Nepal**

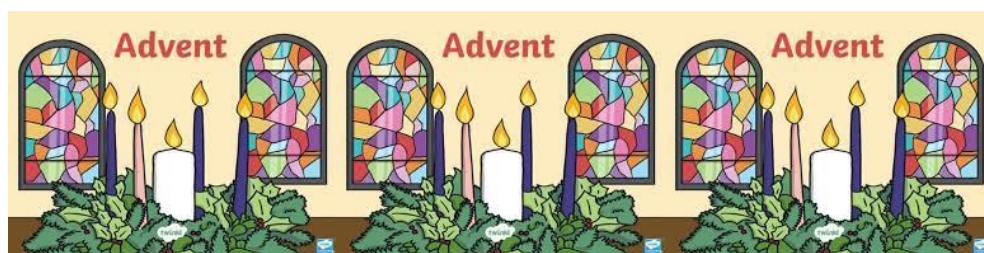
We have had a message of deeply grateful thanks for some money that we sent to Sita, who leads a church in Nepal. She was widowed young when her husband, a migrant worker in Malaysia, had a fatal accident. She is the most amazing lady who trained at Bible college in England many years ago and the church she leads is growing. They have had many challenges as the area has had natural disasters. She thanks you for your help. Gail Halley is our contact with her and would be happy to tell you more.

<b>Dates for your diary</b>	
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	10-12 Little Fellowes at the Chapel.
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am Worship Service 10.45am Communion Service
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	2pm Mid Week Communion at the Chapel
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	10-12 Little Fellowes at the Chapel.

Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30-9pm Origins and practice of Holy Communion. See Madeline
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	10-12 Little Fellowes at the Chapel.
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	11-2 Renew Wellbeing Café
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	7.30pm Carol Service Choir rehearsal at St Stephen's
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30 Coach and Horses Fellowship
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	10-12 Little Fellowes at the Chapel. Last session before LF nativity. Re opens Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	7pm Games Night with Sam L
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	4.30pm Carol Service Choir rehearsal at St Stephen's
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	10am Family Carol Service 4pm Carols at the Chapel
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30-2.30pm Café Carols
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am Little Fellowes Nativity @ St Stephen's
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Café closing at 1pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	A Christmas Carol with Saltmine Theatre Company. Tickets online via the website <a href="http://www.ststephensnorwich.org">www.ststephensnorwich.org</a>
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Family Christmas films at St Stephen's
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Family Christmas films at St Stephen's
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am Worship Service 3-4pm Christingle Service 11.15pm Midnight Service with Communion
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10am Christmas Family Service with Communion
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	Café closed
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	Café Open
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	Café Open
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	Café Open
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	Café Open
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	9.15am Communion Service 10.45am Worship Service
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Café Closed
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Café open
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	2pm Mid Week Communion at the Chapel

Morning Prayer Monday - Friday 9.30-10.00 am Zoom code 918 123 449  
Sunday Worship 9.15am & 10.45am

**Church Office** open Monday – Friday 10am-3pm Tel. 01603 617697  
[www.ststephensnorwich.org](http://www.ststephensnorwich.org)





WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
7pm  
Tickets: £10 Adults £5 Children  
To book visit: [ststephensnorwich.org](http://ststephensnorwich.org)

St Stephen's  
Norwich  
Arts

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Family Carol Service
	4-5pm	Carols at the Chapel
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 - 2:30pm	Café Carols
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am	Little Fellowes Nativity
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	9:15	Worship Service
	10:45	NO Service
	3pm	Christingle Service
	11:15pm	Midnight Service
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Christmas Family Service with Communion
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	9:15am	Communion Service
	10:45am	Worship Service

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

St Stephen's  
Norwich

**CHAPEL CAROLS**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December  
4-5pm

We invite you to join us at The Chapel - Fellowes Plain for carols, mince pies and refreshments.

St Stephen's  
Norwich  
Chapel

**CAFE CAROLS**

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
1:30 - 2:30pm

Join us for an afternoon of carols with mince pies

St Stephen's  
Norwich  
Café

Morning Prayer Monday - Friday 9.30-10.00 am Zoom code 918 123 449  
Sunday Worship 9.15am & 10.45am

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