

#### Useful Contacts

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<b>Friends in Deed</b>	07810 006598

Items for the pew sheet should be sent to the Priest in Charge or secretary by 9am on the previous Tuesday

#### FURTHER NOTICES

**Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Appeal - Buckden Methodist Church will be open from 2-4.30pm on Mondays 7 & 14 and Friday 11 December** to drop off completed and empty boxes as well as donations of items and money. **Please however, look at the Methodist Church noticeboard if you are passing by for updated information as and when news occurs.** We will try to email you right away if there is any change to the dates etc. Full details from Carol Sweptstone (810053)

**December and Christmas 2020** – The Christmas Wreath Festival in St Mary's is sadly cancelled. Also, we will be unable to run our large regular events, Carols by Candlelight in St Peter's, Christingle, Buckden Village Carol and Crib Services. However, from **Tuesday 22 December there will be an online Village Carol Service available to view and on Christmas Eve at 3.30pm there is a Zoom Christingle Service.** There may be more virtual on-line services added, so please keep a look out.

**Still currently scheduled are services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning but a reminder that *pre booking for them will be essential.***

#### **Thursday 24 December (Christmas Eve)**

**'Midnight Mass' at 9.30pm in All Saints'**

**'Christmas Communion' at 11.30pm in St Mary's'**

#### **Friday 25 December (Christmas Day)**

**'Christmas Communion' at 9.00am in All Saints'**

**'Christmas Communion' at 10.30am in St Mary's'**

**Advent Challenge – 'Share the Joy'** - Set your family or friends a challenge of doing something good every day, each one of the 24 days, as an Advent Challenge. What you do is up to you, but be sure you have fun and spread some cheer. This is a great activity for children to understand the meaning of Christmas and celebrate humanity. You could ask people to sponsor you for each day, or you could make a donation to a charity of your choice at the end of advent if you wish.

**Need someone to talk to? Friends in Deed** provide support & friendship (by telephone only for the moment) **and is still running.** Just call 07810 006598 to speak to our friends' co-ordinator.

**The Children's Society are running a National Christingle Event on Sunday 13 December** - further details from [www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online).

## The Benefice of Buckden & the Offords

### Sunday 29 November 2020 (Advent Sunday)

Dear Friends,

Once again it has been an interesting week as the government announced the new tier structure for when lockdown finishes on Wednesday and also the Christmas 'armistice' when we will be able to mix more freely, albeit carefully, over the Christmas period. Although some of the details are still to be clarified, we hope that we will still be able to run the services advertised elsewhere in this pewsheet and in the Roundabout. Before that, thankfully our churches can re-open for corporate worship, and both All Saints and St Mary's will be holding services next week.

Advent is all about hope - in the Christian sense of future expectation; the birth of our Saviour Jesus and then his promised return. This year, in particular, our world (and maybe ourselves) need a sense of hope and authentic celebration; not in a flippant way, but grounded in positive future expectation. I hope (!) this will be a theme of our services this Advent and Christmas. We get a sense of that this morning when Miles will remind us that we have the privilege of being children of our heavenly Father.

I look forward to seeing many of you next Sunday, and beginning to share the joy and good news 'of glad tidings and great joy' which the angels brought to the shepherds and to each one of us.

Blessings and best wishes,  
Jes

#### ***A prayer about the corona virus***

Father God, as people and nations of the world, help us to realise our dependence upon one another. We pray for healing among the sick, wisdom among our leaders, protection and effectiveness for health workers, and responsible behaviour by each of us as individuals. Most of all, Lord, we pray that you dispel our fears, for you 'did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline' (2 Tim 1:7). For Jesus's sake. Amen.

#### ***Prayer of the week (collect)***

Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### ***Prayer after communion***

Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### ***Advent Candle Prayer***

Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
born in David's city,  
born like him to be a king to be born in our hearts at Christmas, be King of our lives today. Amen.

## Gospel Reflection

*The parable of the weeds, a parable unique to Matthew among the four canonical gospels, shows us that he believed the present time is a time of grace in which God allows weeds and wheat to grow together and it is God's to judge which is which. So, we are not to judge one another, but we are to live aware of the winnowing that is to come at God's hands. The presence of forgiveness in our lives is an important criterion on which our obedience will be judged when the time comes. We are not to roll judgmentally down the road of life, but we are to stop when necessary, to take stock of our own sins and to extend the same forgiveness we have received to others.*

### Prayer Corner



**Please pray in Offord for:** those who live and work in Apple Close, Bramley Drive, Elm Drive.

**and in Buckden for:** our village churches, St Mary's St Hugh's, Methodist Church, Clergy, Church Councils, Prayer Groups, all who make them welcoming, worshipful places.

## NOTICES

**GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS COVID-19 – Services will be able to resume next week along the lines of the arrangements prior to the second lockdown.** Facemasks must continue to be worn and attendance will be limited in order to comply with current social distancing guidelines. **For, St Mary's a reminder to book your place by either contacting David Pickavance by email or adding your name to the list on the porch noticeboard.** This is not necessary for services in All Saints' with the exception of the ones on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Please also always follow any instructions given by the duty wardens.

**Please note that we will continue to distribute by email the pewsheet every week and continue with our weekly online service** as it is appreciated that many of you will still feel unable to attend our services. Please follow the links from the St Mary's and All Saints' websites if you wish to view them each Sunday.

**St Mary's will continue to be open for private prayer on Mondays and Thursdays from 10am until 4.00pm.**

**Saturday 28 November from 11.00am-11.40am - Virtual Saturday coffee** – Also Saturday 5 December. Please note the Zoom meeting details- ID: 798 1012 3003 Password: 6WVmStJ. Repeats weekly until further notice.

### Sunday 6 December Services

**9.30am in All Saints' – Carol Joy Family Service**  
**11am in St Mary's – Family Communion**

**Wednesday 9 December in St Mary's at 9.30am – Holy Communion.**

### Sunday 13 December Services

**11am in St Mary's – Family Communion**  
**6.00pm in All Saints' – Songs of Praise**

**St Mary's chosen charity for November and December is Brain Tumour Research**

<https://www.braintumourresearch.org/>

Brain tumours are indiscriminate; they can affect anyone at any age. They kill more children and adults under 40 than any other cancer. Brain Tumour Research is determined to change this. This is the only national charity in the UK that is dedicated to raising funds for continuous and sustainable scientific research. To donate please use this link. Thanks for your support.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/StMarysBuckden>

(More notices overleaf)

## This Sunday's Readings

Please note that each reader has the freedom to choose their preferred version so the following may not match 'word for word' (NRSV)

### Romans 8. 12-25

12 So then, brothers and sisters,\* we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—<sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.<sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.<sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!'<sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness\* with our spirit that we are children of God,<sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. Future Glory. 18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us.<sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;<sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope<sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.<sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now;<sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.<sup>24</sup>For in\* hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes\* for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### Matthew 13.24-30

24 He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;<sup>25</sup>but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.<sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.<sup>27</sup>And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?"<sup>28</sup>He answered, "An enemy has done this." The slaves said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?"<sup>29</sup>But he replied, "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.<sup>30</sup>Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn." '