

From January 2024 the Parish magazine will rise to £1.00 for an individual copy (currently 50p) but just **£10.00** for an annual subscription. The Parish magazine has gone up by only 10p in twenty years and the increase in price will ensure that the magazine pays for itself and can continue into future years.

Wednesday communion

10.00am St Mary's

Wednesday (20th December)

9.30am School Christmas service, All Saints

12.00pm Advent Hymn Meditation, St Mary's

Thursday (21st December)

No Little Saints - Christmas break

Friday (22nd December)

12.00pm Advent prayer, All Saints bapistry

Next Sunday Christmas Eve 24th December

10.00am United Benefice Holy Communion, St Mary's

3.30pm Christingle service, St Peter and St Paul

4.00pm Christingle service, St Mary's

5.30pm Crib service, All Saints

9.00pm Candlelit Communion with carols, All Saints

9.00pm Candlelit Communion with carols, St Mary's

9.00pm Candlelit Communion with carols, St Peter and St Paul

Monday Christmas Day 25th December

8.00am Holy Communion, All Saints

10.00am Communion and carols, St Mary's

10.00am Communion and carols, St Paul's

10.30am Communion and carols, All Saints

NB There will be no mid week communion on Wednesday, 27th December. It will resume on 3rd January.

THE BENEFICE OF EAST CLEVEDON

Advent 3 – 17th December

www.eastclevedonchurches.co.uk

Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-end

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Matthew 11: 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our benefice we pray for those who are sick; Roy Guest, Denise Richardson, Shirley Logan, Jean Jones, Fr. Ron Farrell, Andrea Greening, Brigitte de Waal, Terry Richards, Anna Mylam, Peter Dodd.

We pray for those who have recently died.

In our year's mind we remember, Sheila Duncan, Gina Hewitt, Andrew Blease, Marjorie Redman, Christine Malet, Nina Dodd, Patricia Waldron, Tom Judge, and we pray for all who are mourning the loss of loved ones at this time.

Notices

IMPORTANT NOTICE Please note that all the Christmas Eve Late Evening Communion services taking place across the Benefice start at **9pm** (not 10pm as advertised in the Christmas services notice on p.17 of the magazine) Please spread the word!

The Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and the New Year, but for any urgent pastoral matters please contact the Rector on 873257.

Christmas services - all our services over the Christmas period are accessible and inclusive, and we warmly invite you to bring family and friends along with you to join us at this special time.

Lunchtime Advent Hymn Meditation at St Mary's, Wednesday, 20th December at 12 noon. This is the last in the series. At 12.30pm there will be a light lunch in the hall for a donation of £3.00.

Advent Prayer at All Saints Church (Baptistry) between 12.00pm and 1pm on Friday, 22nd December.

Services on Sunday, 31st December With the agreement of the Benefice Churchwardens, there will be an 8am Holy Communion at All Saints and a United Benefice sung Eucharist service at All Saints at 10.30am. No services at St Mary's, St Peter and St Paul and St Paul's on this Sunday.