

Diary Dates

Dec

Tue 4 th	10.30am	Coffee morning
Thu 6 th	7.30pm	Issues Group
Sat 8 th	10am	Activity morning
	7pm	Quinborne choir concert
Wed 12 th	7.30pm	Musical bingo
Thu 13 th	4pm	School concert
Sat 15 th		Working party
Sun 16 th	10am	Junior Church Nativity Tableau
	6.30pm	Carol Service
Wed 19 th	7.30pm	Book Group
Mon 24 th	5pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
Tue 25 th	10am	Christmas Day Service

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Praying Together: November-March

Unfortunately there has been a delay in distributing the new edition of Praying Together to deaneries.

Coffee morning (Tue 4th Dec) 10.30am at Donald and Morfudd's, 29 Fox Hill – all welcome.

Issues Group (Thu 6th Dec) 7.30 pm, 37 Tillyard Croft to consider issues from PCC and further aspects arising from Parish Workshop held on Sat 17th Nov.

Activity morning (Sat 8th Dec) Returning by popular demand: the Christmas children's Activity Morning will be held in the Hall from 10am.

Musical Bingo (Wed 12th Dec) Women's Group has magnanimously decided to open its forthcoming musical bingo evening to non-women! Please join us at 7.30pm in church for an evening of entertainment, mulled wine and mince pies. There will be a small charge of £2 to cover expenses. *Kate*

Working party (Sat 15th Dec) – volunteers needed for leaf sweeping etc.

Quinborne Choir: Christmas Concert (Sat 8th Dec) 7pm in Church: featuring choruses from Handel's Messiah. Tickets £12 available on the door.

Advent Bible Studies (10.30 at 37 Tillyard Croft) from Tom Wright's *Advent for everyone. A Journey through Luke*
Tue 4th Dec: A time for renewal. The preaching of John the Baptist. pp. 30-55
Tue 11th Dec: A time for justice. John the Baptist confronts the crowds. pp. 56-84
Tue 18th Dec: A time for celebration. Mary's song of praise. pp. 85-113

Donations for Christmas flowers can be placed in the collecting box on the pillar near the entrance.

Book Group (Wed 19th Dec) 7.30pm at 9 Bridgewater Court, to discuss Barbara Pym's *Excellent Women*.

Theological Read (Thu 24th Jan 2019) 7.30pm

We will meet at 9 Bridgewater Court to discuss St Augustine's *Confessions*.

Food Banks We currently support St Michael's Church and the Christian Life Church (CLC) with our food bank donations. For Christmas, CLC would welcome any food and non-food items that would help make Christmas a little more special for individuals and families using the food bank. Non-perishable foods for the festive season eg. puddings, tinned/packet custards and sauces, tinned vegetables, gravy mix, sweet & savoury biscuits, nibbles, confectionery etc. would be good. CLC also serves a Christmas meal to 40 people, and would welcome small boxes of chocolates to ensure each person receives a gift. It would be good to help with this too.

The deadline to get things to CLC is Monday 10th so please bring them next Sunday. *Jayne*

Licensing Lunch (13th Jan 2019)

David will be officially "licensed" as our Assistant Priest by Bishop Anne on Sunday 13th January. We will be following the service with a Bring and Share lunch in church and hope that lots of people will stay for this. Please keep the date free in your diaries and look out for a sign-up sheet at the back of church, where you will be able to state what you would like to bring. It will be good to welcome in the new year with such a positive occasion. *Kate*

The Readings

For the first Sunday of Advent, our Gospel reading from Luke hardly seems to begin with a message of hope. It cannot be said to bring to mind thoughts of shepherds, magi and the Christ child in the manger. Yet the reminder of "nations in anguish and perplexity" could not be more relevant to our own turbulent, troubled times. And whilst many people become more and more apprehensive about "what is coming on the world", there are those – some of them in power – who it seems will not "lift up their heads" to the reality of the global situation. It might be easy to be disheartened by what seems to be in store for us but this passage should in fact be of consolation. Written as it was nearly two thousand years ago, we may see that there have always been fears for the future of the planet and for humanity and yet here we still are. It may be a wise principle to live each day as if our last, but we may also do well to remember that it probably isn't – at least not quite yet – and that we should look forward with realism but also with hope to the future. Advent is about precisely that; preparing for, and helping those around us to be prepared for whatever the future brings, in the knowledge that we will never be left by God to face it alone. *Kate*