

NEWS & NOTICES

Since we are out of lockdown we can meet for Holy Communion again from next week! Usual precautions apply.



Sandale's Secret Santa Appeal 2020

The year 2020 has been such a difficult and uncertain time for many people in the local community and across the country. Many people have lost their employment and have been left with financial difficulty due to the pandemic.

Can you help give a **child and family** the Christmas they wish for... Sandale Trust organises a Secret Santa Appeal each year where we ask people for donations of new toys, clothes and food that we can give to a family to help with the financial struggles of Christmas and make a child's wish come true.

Gifts can be donated to Sandale Trust Monday – Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm
Or we can collect them from yourselves at a time that suits you

You can make a confidential referral if you know someone that will be struggling and that you feel would benefit from some things or you could purchase an item or buy a gift for a person that we could deliver

For more information- Shannon Worsley – Youth and Community Development Manager
01274 270170 – 07858775936 Shannon@sandaletrust.org

COULD YOU SUPPORT OUR APPEAL ? END DATE FOR REFERRALS IS : MONDAY 14th DECEMBER 2019 5:00PM

Sandale's Annual Secret Santa Appeal

We are asking for new toys (unwrapped) for girls and boys, all ages to distribute to our neighbours in order to bring some help and cheer. Also required are food bank items. Items can be dropped off at church when we return, or given to me at the vicarage by Thursday 17th December.

Thank you so much.

Prayer Chain If you, or someone you know needs urgent prayer call John Whitely (01274 676670)

Contacting us

The Team Vicar—Revd. Andy Greiff Tel. 01274 676 335

Church Website. www.shelfwithbuttershaw.net

Email: andrew.greiff667@gmail.com

Or follow us on Facebook

St Michaels & St Aidan's lockdown NEWSLETTER

November 29th Advent Sunday



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**

Mark 13

²⁴ “But in those days, following that distress, “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

²⁶ “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸ “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door.

³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

Homily

Happy new church year!

The church’s yearly cycle of seasons begins on Advent Sunday, followed by Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Trinity. All have their own particular aspect of our faith.

Advent is a season of expectation, of waiting for the ‘advent’ the ‘coming’ of Christ into the world. We of course look back in this season to Jesus’ first advent that we celebrate at Christmas. We remember the prophet’s foretelling the arrival of the Messiah, John the Baptist making the way for Jesus in his ministerial life, and the Angel Gabriel’s visit to Mary. But in this first week of Advent we look to Jesus’ second Advent, when Jesus shall once again be bodily present among us in this world. This time not as a baby in Bethlehem but coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

Overall the season of Advent is a time when we are encouraged to ‘look’ for Jesus. But what does that mean? What does it entail?

Looking back. The only way to find out about Jesus is in the Bible. The Bible is a love story, a story of redemption and the central figure, the greatest act of love is Jesus. Looking carefully we can see Jesus in both the Old Testament, the Gospels and the New Testament letters. We need to dig into the scriptures, particularly the Gospels in order to reveal the nature of Jesus.

Looking forward. Someone once told me that he didn’t read the Bible because it made him afraid, particularly of the future. He was right to be afraid. Looking forward to end times reminds us that Jesus is returning in power and judgement. Read the passage again, Jesus tells his disciples to be on guard, be alert, watch! It’s a great hope and blessing for those who are ready but a time to be feared for those who aren’t.

Looking around. Of course looking back and looking forward instructs how we live our lives in the here and now. And it is in our lives now that we need to look for Jesus, in good times and bad. God is not hidden even though sometimes we think he is.

A man was outside his house busy looking through the grass. As he’s feverishly looking his neighbour comes and asks, “what are you looking for?” He answers, “I lost my wallet and I’m trying to find it.” And his neighbour says, “Well, where did you lose it?” He says, “I lost it in my house, in my bedroom.” Neighbour replies, “Well, why aren’t you in your house and bedroom searching for it?” And he says, “Oh, it’s too dark in there. It’s much nicer to search out here in the sunshine.”

The meaning of this story is that we often look for God in the wrong places. Sometimes we just forget to look. The season of Advent encourages to look, to watch for the return of our King, to celebrate his first incarnation and to live in hope for when he returns and reigns victorious. Andy