

## Wey Valley Circuit Prayer Diary December 2024

This month's prayers are based on the theme of **The Advent Hope - the coming of Immanuel – God with us – Jesus the Son of God; World Aids Day; Christmas and Peace**

For a little light hearted fun I have also included a Christmas Quiz!

Bible references are from the NRSVA unless otherwise stated. Hymns are from Singing the Faith – StF, Hymns and Psalms – HP, The Methodist Hymn Book MHB. Other resources are as noted.

*Christmas is coming! The Church is glad to sing and let the Advent candles brightly burn in a ring. The first is for God's promise to put the wrong things right and bring to earths darkness the hope of love and light. (John L Bell Stf 166)*

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Advent Sunday** 'Come Lord Jesus come, to this heart of mine, Lord I need to know you now in this heart of mine, Fill me with your peace in this heart of mine, Amen (Based on StF 168 -Francesca Leftley)



**World Aids Day** – Pray for all those who are suffering from Aids and its consequences and those who support them. Amen

Pray for the Worship, Ministry and Mission of all the congregations in the Circuit at this special time.

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>



#### **Bristol Cathedral**

Reflect upon the faith of Mary and Joseph in their response to God's Call.

The birth of Jesus, the Messiah, took place in this way. When his mother Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before they came to the marriage bed Joseph discovered she was pregnant,

(It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn't know that ) Joseph, chagrined but noble, determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced.

While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream. God's angel spoke in the dream: "Joseph, Son of David, don't hesitate to get married. Mary's pregnancy is Spirit conceived. God's Holy Spirit has made her pregnant, She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus –'God saves' – because he will save his people from their sins. "

A prophet said, *Watch for this – a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son; they will name him Immanuel – 'God is with us'*

Then Joseph woke up. He did exactly what God's angel commanded in the dream: He married Mary. But he did not consummate the marriage until she had the baby. He named the baby Jesus. (*Matthew 1:18-25 The Message*)

**Christmas Quiz 1:** Who was the Prophet mentioned above and what is the Bible reference for his Prophecy?

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>** Advent Hope – pray for all those organisations and individuals you know who are striving to bring hope this Advent – that they will make a difference.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>** Advent Light – pray for all those organisations and individuals you know who are striving to shine a light in the darkness – that their light may shine brightly!

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the Ministry and Mission of **Advent Reflections** 12.15pm for 12.30pm at Guildford St. Mary's, followed by Bread and Soup Lunch.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Feast of St Nicholas** Give thanks for the work and example of this sainted Bishop who gave gifts to the poor and needy out of his own pocket. Pray for those in need this Christmas, particularly the sad and lonely and for the organisations that you know who provide facilities for them.

**Christmas Quiz 2: – Where (ancient region or modern Country) and when (which Century) was St Nicholas a Bishop?**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the Ministry and Mission of the Christmas Musical – ‘*It's A Boy!*’ at Trinity Woking 2.00pm – 3.30pm. Eventbrite link [HERE](#) or contact Trinity Office

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Advent 2** Pray for the Worship, Ministry and Mission of the Christingle Service at Godalming United Church 10.30am, and the all age Nativity Service at Woking Trinity 10.30am, [Loss to Light](#) All Souls Service at Merrow 4.30pm

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup>** *The second candle is for the prophets who said that Christ would come with good news for many and angry words for some. (ibid) Touch me with your love in this heart of mine, May I see your light in this heart of mine. (Ibid)*



**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> An Advent Challenge - Reflect upon the Message** - Colours of day dawn into the mind. The sun has come up the night is behind. Go down in the city, into the streets, and give the message to the people you meet. Through prayer – Light up the fire of the Spirit and let the flame burn, open the door, let Jesus return. Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow, tell the people of Jesus, let his love show, Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead and enable you to share this message of Hope with others.

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>**

Go through the park, on into the town; the sun still shines on; it never goes down. The light of the world is risen again; the people of darkness are needing a friend. Open your eyes, look into the sky, the darkness has come, the sun came to die. The evening draws on, the sun disappears, but Jesus is living, his Spirit is near. (*Sue McCelland, John Paculabo, Keith Rycroft StF 167 alt.*)

Pray for the faith and courage to spread the gospel in words and deeds. wherever you are.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the Ministry and Mission of [Advent Reflections](#) 12.15pm for 12.30pm at Guildford St. Mary's followed by Bread and Soup Lunch.

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup>** On the day when there is a tendency for flippancy and superstition reflect on these words and the reality of God's presence every day whatever may happen.

*Light of the world you stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see beauty that made my heart adore you, Hope of a life spent with you, So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that you're my God, and you're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me. Amen (StF 175 Tim Hughes)*

**Christmas Quiz 3** What does Tannenbaum mean in English and who introduced the tradition to Britain (it's not who you think!)?

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the blessing of the message of Christmas through the Godalming Band and Youth Band Christmas Concert 7.00pm Godalming United Church (for further details see P8 TWF), and [Godalming Community Choir Christmas Showcase](#) 7.30pm at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Godalming (for further details see P14 TWF)

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Advent 3** Pray for the Worship, Ministry and Mission of Carol Services at Addlestone 10.30am, Merrow 10.30 am, Stoughton 2.30pm, Woking Trinity Joint Carol Service in Cantonese & English 6.00pm



**Monday 16<sup>th</sup>** *The third candle is for John the Baptist who cried, "Prepare the way. Be ready for Jesus today and every day," (Ibid) Pray for the faith and power of the Holy Spirit to do that.*



**Christmas Quiz 4** – Where did John the Baptist prepare for his mission, what did he wear, and what was his staple diet?

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the Ministry and Mission of the Coffee Morning in aid of [Cherry Trees](#) at Stoughton 10,00am – 12.00 Noon.

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the for the Mission and Ministry of Chaplaincy across the Circuit, in Schools, the University and other colleges, Hospitals, Care Homes, HMP Send and other locations.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the Ministry and Mission of '[Carols at Lunchtime](#)' at St Mary's, Guildford 12.15pm, Woking Trinity 6.30pm Blue Christmas Service for those who find Christmas difficult – on Zoom [HERE](#)

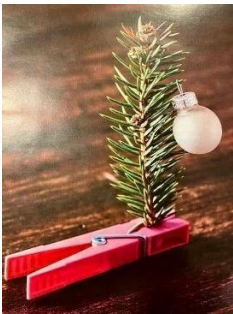
Pray for those who find, for whatever reason, that Christmas is not a blessed or joyful time.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup>**

Pray for the Street Angels in Woking, Guildford and elsewhere that the light and hope of Advent will shine through them and bless their commitment to serve. Give them strength and security at this very busy and sometimes difficult time.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>**

*O Christmas tree! O Christmas tree! You fill our hearts with gladness,  
At Christmas time your lovely sight fills our spirits with delight.*

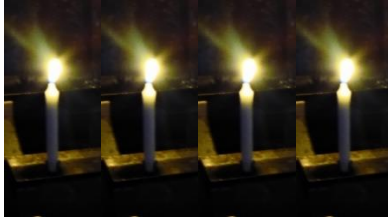


*For centuries in the Germanic region of Europe it had been customary for people to hang all kinds of gifts on branches of fir trees and take them home to display and distribute*

*Martin Luther after seeing stars shining through the branches of the fir trees on his way home from church prompted him to take one into his church on Christmas Eve and put candles on it to celebrate the coming of the Light of the World to give the light and love of God to the world.*

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Advent 4:** Pray for the Worship, Ministry and Mission of Carol Services at West Horsley 10.00am, Byfleet 10.30am, Cranleigh 10.30am, St Michael's Sheerwater, 10.30am and Weybridge 10.30am, Carols by Candlelight at Knaphill 6.00pm, Godalming United Church 6.00pm, Foundry Christmas Praise Party – A lively and modern celebration of carols at Woking Trinity 6.00pm.





**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>** *The fourth candle is for the Virgin who mothered God's own son, and sang how God's justice was meant for everyone. (Ibid)*

*Reflect on that prayer and its relevance to you, today. (STF 793 or Luke 1:46-54)*

**Christmas Quiz 5 – Who prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem and what is the Bible reference?**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve** Pray for the Worship, Ministry and Mission of the Crib Service at St Mary's Guildford 3.00pm and 4.00pm, the Christingle Service at Walton-on-Thames 4.00pm, and Midnight Communion at Woking Trinity 11.15pm

**Reflection** – *We see the eyes of Mary shine, for all the pain of birth is past, she cradles Jesus in her arms her time of joy is here at last.*

*We look on Joseph's roughened hands his eyes are filled with tender joy, he gently reaches for the child, this little scrap, this baby boy.*

*And can they know? And could they guess at love's responsibility, that hurt would mingle with the joy of human possibility? But on this night a single star is just enough to signal grace: a child is born in Bethlehem and offered for the human race. (StF 219 Andrew Pratt)*



**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day –God bless you all and I wish you a wonderful Christmas!**

Pray for the Ministry and Mission of the celebration of the birth of Jesus at all-age worship at Woking Trinity 10.00am

**Reflection:** *Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine, Love was born at Christmas star and angel gave the sign, Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine, love to God and all the world, love for plea and gift and sign. (Christina Rossetti)*

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Feast of St Stephen** - Thank God for the courage and example of Stephen who gave his life in service to others and was stoned to death for his faith. Pray for all those persecuted for their faith today.

**Christmas Quiz 7. What Carol features the 'Feast of Stephen' and who are the characters involved?**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> St John the Apostle and Evangelist** – Give thanks for the example, writings and witness of John, who responded to Jesus' call to follow him and the request from the Cross that he take Mary into his home and care for her. Pray for any Home Carers that you know, especially those working over the Christmas period.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> Holy Innocents** –If possible, read Matthew 4:16-18 or StF 218 (*Fred Kaan*) particularly v3  
It is not a surprise that Herod acted in that way, We are experiencing similar actions across our world today and it is always the young, frail, and vulnerable who suffer the most. We all have a responsibility to seek for peace in all areas. In the quiet wherever you can find a copy of StF 712 - meditate and reflect on the words and pray to the 'Prince of Peace' verse five, for yourself and everyone you know and the whole world.

*Put Christ into each other's hands, he is loves deepest measure; in love make peace, give peace a chance and share it like a treasure (StF 712 Fred Kaan)– make it a personal challenge for the New Year to think, speak and act in peace in yourself and all you meet.*

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> First Sunday of Christmas;** Pray for the Worship Ministry and Mission of the Circuit Celebration of Christmas Service streamed from Trinity Woking. 10.30 am and all those participating there or on the live stream. Link [HERE](#)

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup>** Give thanks for the loyal service provided over this year passed by our Ministers, Local Preachers, Worship Leaders, Pastoral Visitors, Stewards, Administrators, Readers, Musicians, Flower Arrangers, Refreshment Providers, all Congregations and any others who have enabled Worship and Mission to take place in the Circuit.

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> New Years Eve** – A very ‘Happy New Year’ to you all – may God richly bless you and the Holy Spirit empower you, as you continue to love and serve our Lord Jesus every day. Amen



Christmas Quiz Answers:

1. Isaiah – 7:14
2. Myra – 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Century
3. Tannenbaum = Christmas Tree – it was introduced into Britain by Queen Charlotte, King George III's wife, and erected in the Palace at Kew. Following on from the example of St Nicholas she asked all her heads of department to make a list of those who worked under them and any retired who lived on the Estate and a suitable present was placed around the tree for everyone and distributed at the ‘Christmas Party’. This happened every Christmas until the end of her reign. Prince Albert revived the concept at Windsor Castle after his marriage to Queen Victoria it was quickly copied by members of the Royal Court and very soon became part of our Christmas traditions
4. Wilderness of Judea, clothing - camel's hair with a leather belt, food - locusts and wild honey
5. Micah – Micah 5:2-3
6. Good King Wenceslas, his page, the poor man, and you - (*Therefore, Christian folk – those of you who bless the poor **shall yourselves** find blessing*)

Very well done if you got them all.

Graham Warr

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