

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.

FIRST READING Isaiah 61:1-4. 8-end

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the LORD said: 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.

PSALM OR CANTICLE

Either **Psalm 126**

R *The Lord has done great things for us.*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
 then were we like those who dream.
 Then was our mouth filled with laughter
 and our tongue with songs of joy. **R**

Then said they among the nations,
 "The Lord has done great things for them."
 The Lord has indeed done great things for us,
 and therefore we rejoiced. **R**

Restore again our fortunes, O Lord,
 as the river beds of the desert.

Those who sow in tears
 shall reap with songs of joy.
 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed,
 will come back with shouts of joy,
 bearing their sheaves with them. **R**

Or **Magnificat (Luke 1:46b-55)**

R *My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
 My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
 For he has looked with favour on his lowly servant;
 from this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name. **R**

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.
 He has shown the strength of his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit. **R**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
 and has lifted up the lowly.
 He has filled the hungry with good things
 and the rich he has sent away empty. **R**

He has come to the help of his servant, Israel,
 for he has remembered his promise of mercy.

The promise he made to our forebears:
 to Abraham and his children for ever. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

My brothers and sisters, rejoice always,
 pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

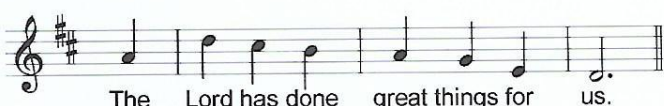
GOSPEL John 1:6-8. 19-28

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

POST COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;
 kindle in us the fire of your Spirit
 that when your Christ comes again
 we may shine as lights before his face;
 who is alive and reigns now and for ever.



SIGNPOST

the weekly newsletter of
St George's, Tuffley with St Margaret's, Whaddon
 Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering
 'Growing God's Kingdom'
Welcome to all
Diary Dates from 17th to 24th December

Sun 17	ADVENT 3		
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion Crucifer: David Readers: Paul / Sylvia C Intercessions: Susan Coffee: Dianne / Erna
	12.30pm	St M's	Baptism of Beth & Harrison Birch
	4.00pm	St G's	Carol Service
	5.00pm	St M's	Evensong
Mon 18	5.00pm	Zoom	Evening Prayer
	6.00pm	SH	Rainbows
	6.30pm	Carol Singing in streets of Yew Tree Gardens	
	7.30pm	LC	Advent Group 3
Tue 19	9.30am	SH	Coffee Pot
	10.00am	St G's	Parish Communion
	11.00am	St G's	Grange Christingle
	5.00pm	LC	Evening Prayer
	6.30pm	Carol singing meet Podsmead Hub	
Wed 20	8.15am	Zoom	Morning Prayer
	2.00pm	LC	Advent Group 3
	6.30pm	Carol Singing at the Pike & Musket	
Thu 21	10.30am	St M's	Parish Communion
	10.30am	SH/SL	Thursday Club
	9.30am	St G's	Harewood School
Fri 22	6.00pm	St M's	Candlelit Carols
Sun 24	CHRISTMAS EVE		
	9.00am	St M's	Parish Communion
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion Crucifer: Roger Readers: Dot / Derek Intercessions: Sylvia C Coffee:
	1.15pm	St G's	Baptism of Seren & Noah
	2.00pm	St G's	Chill out with Christmas activities & hot chocolate
	11.30pm	St G's	Christmas Communion
			Crucifer: Sylvia E Readers: Lynne/David Intercessions: Paul

St G's = St George's, St M's = St Margaret's,
 MH = Main Hall of Centre, SH = Small Hall,
 SL = Softley Lounge, LC = Lady Chapel,

Might it be possible to keep the chatter down in church especially during and after communion, it is normal to use those moments during a service for quiet thoughts. Thank you.

We pray for...

Laura, Angela, Margaret & Mark, Johanna, James, Peter, Janet, Hans, George, Jenny.

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Dot Martin 22nd & Linda & Barry Medwell celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary on 18th.

Hymns at St George's: 201, 371, Holy Holy, 766

FOODBANK

Keep bringing items for the Foodbank on a Sunday. Collection point is the tray at the back of the Church. The Foodbank are in **URGENT NEED OF LONG-LIFE MILK, TINNED CUSTARD, DEODORANT, TINNED VEG (particularly - Peas, Carrots, Sweetcorn)**. Thank you.

Advent Groups - Christmas Unwrapped

The final set of meetings will take place on **Monday 18th December from 7.30pm until 9.00pm** and on **Wednesday 20th December from 2.00pm until 3.30pm**. There will be a short video filmed in Nazareth or Bethlehem - which doubtless will give us questions to ask and things to wonder about the meaning of Christmas. Please feel free to come along.

100 Club Winners for our end of year draw were: - 1st Prize of £100 Mike Clift; 2nd Prize of £50 Mike Clift; 3rd Prize of £25 David Westcott. Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to all 100 Club supporters over the past year and Good Luck for 2024. New members welcome...

Coughs and Sneezes spread diseases.

We'll miss you, but if you feel unwell, please stay at home, and protect your friends in the congregation.

Join the Church in Tuffley for Carol Singing...

On Monday in the streets of Yew Tree Gardens (off Grange Road). **On Tuesday** in the streets of Podsmead, meeting with members of One Church, Podsmead, meeting in Scott Avenue and **on Wednesday** at the Pike & Musket, Windsor Parade. All meet at 6.15pm for 6.30pm start.

CONTACTING US:

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Facebook/Twitter/Instagram: @TuffleyStG

Administrator: Glenda Stevens 01452 307456

There is an answer phone in use outside of office hours.

Email: stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com

We monitor email messages outside of office hours.

The Administration office is open on Wednesday to Friday from 9.30am until 11.30am.

We are part of the Church in Tuffley

