

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, SANDFORD ON THAMES

December 2023

www.sandfordchurch.org

Descent

They sought to soar into the skies
Those classic gods of high renown
For lofty pride aspires to rise
But you came down.

You dropped down from the
mountains sheer
Forsook the eagle for the dove
The other Gods demanded fear
But you gave love

Where chiselled marble seemed
to freeze
Their abstract and perfected form
Compassion brought you to your
knees
Your blood was warm

They called for blood in sacrifice
Their victims on an altar bled
When no one else could pay the
price
You died instead

They towered above our mortal
plain,
Dismissed this restless flesh with
scorn,
Aloof from birth and death and
pain
But you were born.

Born to these burdens, borne by
all
Born with us all 'astride the
grave'
Weak, to be with us when we fall,
And strong to save.

Malcolm Guite

Next collection for Kassam:

Next distribution will be from **11th December**, so donations left in church porch welcome before then. Warm coats, scarves, gloves etc. especially welcome



Saturday 2nd December
from 9.0 – 12.0

SANDFORD-ON-THAMES TALKING SHOP

CHRISTMAS GIFT DONATIONS

To help more local families enjoy Christmas, we are collecting donations of clothes (all sizes), toys, games, children's books, jewellery, toiletries, festive food and other gifts. Plus hot water bottles, throws, shawls, blankets, fleeces, coats, gloves, hats, scarves, and slippers to help keep people warm this winter.

New or as-new and
not gift-wrapped,
please

Drop off at the Talking Shop
Mon-Fri 9.30-4 or Sat 9-12

Address:

Village Hall
Henley Road
Sandford-on-Thames
OX4 4XY

A festive poster for Littlemore Community Christmas Day Lunch. It features a green and white color scheme with a reindeer illustration. The text includes the event name, date, time, location, and contact information.

by noon Dec 9th

Thank you

Littlemore Community
CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

1-4PM, DECEMBER 25

FOOD * BINGO * RAFFLE * CRAFT TABLE
AT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN ACADEMY
GRANGE ROAD, LITTLEMORE
Transport and vegetarian option available

SUGGESTED DONATION
£2.50 ADULT £1.50 CHILD

TO BOOK OR TO HELP CONTACT:
admin@littlemorechurch.org
or phone 07398 599430

ST MARY & ST NICHOLAS
IN THE HEART OF LITTLEMORE

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 17th December at 6.30 p.m.

CAROL SERVICE

Christmas Eve

4.0 p.m. CRIB AND
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

for parents, grandparents, children,
friends. Actors and actresses invited
- contact vicar.

11.30 p.m. MIDNIGHT MASS

Those who do not receive communion
are invited to come up for a blessing.

Christmas Day

10.0 a.m. PARISH EUCHARIST

6.30 Evening prayer



Carols in the Park

Saturday 9th December 3.30 – 4.30

on the recreation ground
with St Andrew's choir and the Jubilee
Brass Band – with mincepies, mulled wine
and soft drinks.

Christmas carols

On Wednesday 22nd December the choir
will be singing carols at the King's Arms
around 8.0 – do join
us there.



Among the many local people who need our prayers, please especially keep in mind

all those we know who are unwell, especially **Angie Pugh**, and the residents of Vale House,
We remember **John Goodall**, whose funeral will be in church on 8th December, and **Mavis and her family**.
And we pray for **Kate Rudman and Sam Littlewood** to be married in church on the 23rd December.

SUNDAYS in December 2023 Year B

Sunday 3rd December ADVENT SUNDAY

10.0 a.m. Parish Communion Advent Candle/Patriarchs

Isaiah 64.1-9 *A prayer for the coming of God (Advent). 2 and 3 Isaiah (chapters 40-66) are the clearest indication of Hebrew monotheism in the Old Testament. No other gods but God! (similarly Christianity and Islam). But we have sinned and need God's help. 'You, Lord, are our Father, we are your people'.*

1 Corinthians 1.3-9 *Paul thanks God for the spiritual gifts of his converts in Corinth, and looks forward to their progress. (But it gets sharp after this friendly beginning- there's a lot wrong in the church).*

Mark 13.24-37 *Jesus' Jewish apocalyptic language about the end of this evil age and the coming (Advent) of the Son of Man from heaven. Be prepared! See the signs of the times! We don't know when it will be. Be ready!*

6.30 p.m. Evening prayer

Sunday 10th December 2nd Sunday in Advent

10.0 a.m. Parish Communion Advent Candle/Prophets

Isaiah 40.1-11 *The prophet is told to comfort God's people – liberation is coming, so prepare the way for God's glory being revealed. Good news! Good news! Here is your God! God rules. He will be a shepherd to us.*

2 Peter 3.8-15 *Don't be put off by the delay in the Lord's coming. The end will come when we are not expecting it. Meanwhile live decently and with patience, at peace with other people.*

Mark 1.1-8 *'The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ' is marked by John the Baptist calling on us to turn to God. He foretells the coming of the Messiah who will baptize us in the Holy Spirit.*

6.30 p.m. Evening prayer

Sunday 17th December 3rd Sunday in Advent

10.0 a.m. Parish Communion Advent Candle/John Baptist

Isaiah 61.1-4 and 8-11 *(Quoted by Jesus in Luke 4). The Spirit of the Lord is upon Jesus and called him to bring good News, as the prophet did in 539 BC (release from Babylon captivity and exile). Rejoice. God demands justice and will make a covenant (deal) with us. All nations will see it.*

1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 *Paul tells us to pray and then blesses us. The one who calls us is faithful – can be trusted.*

John 1.6-8 and 19-28 *St John's account of John the Baptist pointing the people to Jesus.*

6.30 p.m. CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 24th December 4th Sunday in Advent CHRISTMAS EVE

10.0 a.m. Parish Communion Advent Candle/Mary

2 Samuel 7.1-11 and 16. *Nathan the prophet is told by God to tell David that the Temple will be built by Solomon his son. His posterity (son of David) will establish a kingdom that will be God's kingdom for ever.*

Romans 16.25-27 *A doxology (praising God) at the end of Paul's letter to Jewish and Gentile believers in Rome.*

Luke 1.26-38 *The annunciation to Mary. She accepts God's call and promise – and goes to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, also pregnant, with John the Baptist in her elderly womb.*

4.0 p.m. Crib and Christingle service

11.30 p.m. MIDNIGHT MASS 11.30 p.m.

Hebrews 1.1-12 *This homily celebrates the coming of Christ who is greater than the angels.*

John 1.1-14 *St John proclaims the incarnation of God's Word.*

Monday 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY 10.0 a.m.

Isaiah 9.2-7 *The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light. For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given – the prince of peace.*

Luke 2.3-20 *Luke's story of the birth of Christ. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in him today.*

Sunday 31st December 1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61.10-62.3 *'I will rejoice in the Lord . . . not keep silence about all God has done for us. Israel will be called by a new name: beauty in the hand of God – (God of all the world).*

Galatians 4.4-7 *'God sent his Son, born of a woman, under law to rescue us to become God's children'. God has sent the spirit of Jesus into our hearts, so we pray 'Our Father', dear Father (Abba).*

Luke 2.15-21 *The shepherds go to Bethlehem and see it all. Mary pondered it all in her heart. On the 8th day Jesus was (as a Jew) circumcised and named, as instructed by God.*

6.30 p.m. Evening prayer