

St Michael & All Angels, Barnes

Advent



Advent is that solemn and beautiful season that marks the beginning of the Church's year. The name derives from Latin '*adventus*' and in the ancient world described the ceremonial entrance of an Emperor to a city or province. Christians came to use the same term for the coming of their true Lord, Jesus Christ, both his birth among us at Bethlehem, but also his Second Coming at the end of time.

Advent acknowledges that we exist in an 'in-between time'. We have received the revelation of Christ, but the salvation of the whole world is not yet complete, and it is for this consummation that Christians await and long for. This is seen most clearly in the ancient antiphons traditionally said or sung at Evening Prayer in the last week of Advent. Each begins with 'O' as a cry of longing from the heart. They poetically describe the Messiah with symbolic names and images such as 'Morning Star', 'Key of David' and 'Wisdom' to express a sense of liberation and hope of redemption. This is a time when we acknowledge that we are unfinished, and that God's expression of love for the world is still incomplete. There is so much that he still has to share and give to us, and so we open our hearts to what is still to come. This is a season pregnant with the possibilities of God, and I pray that you will use this leaflet to help you access what this season of waiting has to offer.

Father Stephen

Advent Worship

Advent is a time of watching and waiting as we prepare for the coming of Christ, and you are encouraged to share in the spirituality of the season through various events and services:

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE: Sunday 3rd December, 6.00pm

This beautiful service of poetry, choral anthems, hymns and scripture readings begins the Advent Season. It is organised and attended by Churches Together in Barnes and held at St Michael's. If you can offer a plate of canapes to be served afterwards please contact the Parish Office.

MORNING PRAYER

Every day (except Friday) at 9am. A short meditative service to begin the day. Lasts c.20 mins.

WEEKDAY MASS

Mass is celebrated on Wednesday at 12 noon (followed by lunch), and on Saturday at 9.30am (followed by coffee).

CONFESSION

During the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent, Christians often prepare themselves by making use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, commonly called Confession. If you would like to make your Confession during Advent please speak to Fr Stephen to arrange a time. If you have not done this before, the clergy are always happy to help you find out more about what it involves.

N.B. Details of Christmas services are found separately on the Christmas services card, online, on the banner outside church and on the weekly newsheet.



December 19



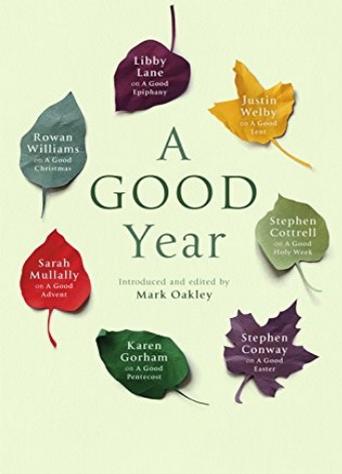
December 18



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Advent Book

Our Advent book this year is 'A Good Year' edited by Canon Mark Oakley (one of our Advent preachers). Advent is the start of the Church's liturgical year, and the book reflects on how we might enter fruitfully into the seasons of the Church's year, asking questions like why have the seasons become shaped as they have and what can we do to make them 'good' for us as Christians? The book includes contributions from some of the most prominent and learned Christian thinkers and pastors today such as Rowan Williams and Justin Welby.



Photocopies of the relevant chapters for the Sundays sermons in Advent will be available each week. Copies of the whole book may also be ordered through the Parish Office priced at £8 (or you may wish to order a copy online). A limited number of copies will be available after church during Advent, until sold.

Advent Sermons

On the first three Sundays in Advent we have a guest preacher at the 10am Sung Mass who will take up the themes of our Advent reading.

ADVENT 1 (3rd December): 'A good year?'
Canon Mark Oakley, Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral.

ADVENT 2 (10th December): 'A good Advent?'
Father Gareth Powell, Priest Missioner, St Margaret the Queen, Streatham.

ADVENT 3 (17th December): 'A good Christmas?'
Father Andrew Zihni, Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordination for the Diocese of Southwark.



Advent Prayer

The short prayers known as the O Antiphons are perfect for private prayer throughout Advent, and you can find three of them here:

O SAPIENTIA

O Wisdom coming forth from the Most High, filling all creation and reigning to the ends of the earth; come and teach us the way of prudence. Amen.

O ORIENS

O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright sun of righteousness: come and bring light to those who dwell in darkness and walk in the shadow of death. Amen.

O EMMANUEL

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, hope of the nations and their saviour: come and save us, O Lord our God. Amen.



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Contact

For further details and information about any events or services:

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