

3 DECEMBER 2017

Welcome to our services today. If you are here for the first time, we hope you will soon feel at home. Please take a moment to fill out one of the yellow 'welcome cards' and hand it to one of the service leaders and do stay for refreshments served after the morning service.

Children: During the morning service, there are groups for children of all ages. Please see screens for details of where each group is meeting.

TODAY AT HA

- 9:45am** **Prayer** – in church before the service, all welcome
10:00am **Morning Worship 'Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending'**
 Leading: Rod Paterson Speaking: Archdeacon Phil Andrew
 Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18
6:30pm **Communion with Advent Meditation**
 Leading: Rod Paterson Speaking: Sarah Burdett

CHURCH EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Mon 4th** 9:15 &
 11:00am Sunflowers Stay & Play
Tues 5th 10:00am Your Kingdom Come Prayer Group (church)
 8:00pm Music Group Practice (church)
Wed 6th 7:00pm Drama Group (church hall)
 7:00pm Balcarras School Carol Concert
Thurs 7th 7:30pm Gospel Choir (church)
Fri 8th 3:30pm Youth Drop In (church hall)
Sat 9th Morning Christmas Tree decoration (church)
 4:00pm Cheltenham Street Pastors Commissioning Service
Sun 10th 10:00am Communion
 Midday Youth Lunch & Christingle Making (church hall)
 3:45pm Familyfun@345
 6:30pm Evening Prayer

The full calendar including church and hall bookings is available at www.holyapostles.org.uk

Homegroups: We have a number of homegroups that run during the week. A list of current homegroups is on the display at the back of church. If you are interested in joining a homegroup please contact John Lawrence or Anna or Rob Swan.

NOTICES

THIS WEEK

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Christmas cards are ready for delivery across the parish. Please take some from the back of church for delivery in your area if able.

HA COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Please support our café and pop in for coffee and homemade cake. The café is open this week:

Thursday 2:30 – 5pm

Friday 9:30am – 12:30pm

MAYOR OF CHELTENHAM'S CAROL SERVICE

Saturday 9th December, 7:00pm in Cheltenham College Chapel. Held in support of two local charities. Further information and tickets available for £10 from:

Jennie.ingram@cheltenham.gov.uk

COMING UP...

CHRISTMAS GARLAND MAKING

Wednesday 13th December 2 – 4:30pm in the church hall café. A fun afternoon making a garland or table decoration.

All materials and tea & mince pies provided. Cost £8.

Please let Sue Watson or Jamie Simpson know if you would like to attend.

LADIES CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday 13th December, 7:30pm in the church hall. Tickets now available from Beanie or Amy for £5 which includes a glass of fizz and buffet.

THANK YOU

HARVEST GIFT DAY

A huge thank you to all of you who responded with such generosity to our Harvest Gift Day. A total of £36,362 has been donated, including any gift aid receivable. We have also received planned giving increases and joiners, which will add £8,000 over the year. Please do not feel it is too late to make a donation, if you haven't already done so!

CHELTENHAM FOODBANK

Thank you from Cheltenham Foodbank! Between the church and school a total of 253kg of food was donated at harvest. Last year the foodbank was able to support 2037 adults and 1378 children.

HELP NEEDED

CHRISTMAS HELP

We need some help with preparing for Christmas services. Forms are available at the back of church, please complete these with whatever help you can offer.

FLOWER ARRANGING

We currently have a small team of volunteers who produce the beautiful arrangements for special occasions in church but they need some more help. If you would be interested in having a go please speak to Sue Watson.

FOOD FOR FAMILYFUN@345

If you can provide food for Sunday 10th December please sign up at the back of church or speak to Sue Watson.

Precis of the Minutes of the PCC Meeting held on Monday 20 November 2017

Awayday Feedback – The future of HA

The PCC received a presentation outlining issues faced by Holy Apostles and possible options for action. We want everyone in the church to be involved in the conversation about how we, as a church, fulfil our vision of seeing our communities transformed by the love of Jesus.

Small group material about has been circulated to all small groups for discussion and feedback. Ask your homegroup leader!

Community Needs Survey

We have been awarded a grant for £8,500 to run a community needs survey. *If anyone is interested in getting involved with this, please see Ian Moat.*

Small Groups

18 people have expressed an interested in wanting to join a new small group. New groups are now being created and *It's not too late to join a group. If you are interested please see John Lawrence or Anna or Rob Swan.*

Youth Update

Jon reported on the two new groups (boys and girls) recently set up. They meet on alternate weeks and were using the kitchen for baking.

Mission Action Team

Rod informed the PCC that there is a vacancy to co-ordinate this group. The links with the missions are in place but it needed a chair. *If anyone is interested in getting involved with this, please speak to Rod Paterson.*

Church Hall Update

Two major issues (lowering the bi-fold doors and relaying the patio work) are underway. There are still issues with heating and damp to sort out.

Financial Update

Fiona reported that since the Harvest Gift Day £33,862 (including Gift Aid) had been received. There had also been changes (both increases and decreases) in Planned Giving with a net increase of £4,560pa. Fiona thanked everyone for their gifts.

Sarah Burdett
PCC Secretary

BIBLE READING

1 THESSALONIANS 4: 13-18

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord for ever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.