

Christmas Celebrations!

Carol Service Sunday 22nd December, 6pm
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Community Carol Singing on the Church Green
Thursday 19th December, 6:30 – 7:30pm

Wrap up warmly and bring friends, neighbours and a torch!

Christmas Eve

4pm Crib Service with Christingle and the return of Mary, Joseph and the donkey to the church

11:30pm First Communion of Christmas (Midnight mass)

Christmas Morning

10am Family Christmas Eucharist

And don't forget to come to ...



St Oswald's Christmas Fair

Saturday 30th November 2019

11:30am – 3:30pm

Come to enjoy seasonal stalls, food and an opportunity to meet Santa!

If you can help with the fair in any way, please contact Bevon on 07944 473423



St. Oswald's, Norbury

Newsletter: Advent 2019

Dear Friends

Advent is a season of watching and waiting. As we look forward to celebrating the Christmas season we reflect on the promise of Christ that he will come again in glory, bringing the kingdom of heaven to completion on earth.

This year the challenge of keeping Advent as a season of penitence and reflection, amidst the usual clamour of early Christmas celebrations, will be even greater as we spend the first half of the season with the 'noise' of the general election campaign.

We will hear promises made, different views debated. We will learn from our politicians their vision of what will be done to make our country a better, fairer and more just place. We will no doubt listen with some scepticism – and then there will be judgement, of the people through the ballot box.

We know as we listen that promises made will be hard to keep; that the judgement made will be not bring perfection. This is in sharp contrast to the themes of promise and judgement that we reflect on during the season of Advent; because Advent is also a time of hope. Hope that is justified by our trusting that the promise of God's kingdom **will** be kept. Justice and peace **will** reign without being partisan to one group or another. Judgement **will** come, but it will be gentle and merciful. It will be perfect justice because it comes through perfect love.

It is that perfect love that we will call to mind as we celebrate the first coming of Christ, God coming to earth to draw us closer to heaven.

I hope that during this Advent you will find times to pause and reflect and that, when Christmas comes it will bring great joy.

O come, O come Emmanuel!

Alison

Advent

Our young people join us at the beginning of the Sung Eucharist each week for the lighting of the candles on our Advent wreath with special prayers and a song.



During the All- Age Eucharist on 1st December we will begin the Posada and distribute collecting candle boxes for the Children's Society. The candles will be collected at the Christingle on Christmas Eve .

On Sunday 22nd December we will welcome Ven. Chris Skilton, Archdeacon of Croydon, as our preacher.

Sunday 1st December, 6pm

We enter the reflective season of Advent with an

Advent Carol Service

A traditional service of readings and carols focussing on the coming again of Christ to bring God's kingdom to earth.

Quiet 'Hours' for Advent

Wednesdays 4th, 11th and 18th December, 8 – 8:45pm

As the preparations for Christmas take hold, join us in taking time each week during Advent to pause and reflect on the enormity of the coming of Christ into the world.

These 'quiet hours' will include some music, short readings and lots of silence.



Posada

From Advent Sunday Mary, Joseph and the donkey will travel through and beyond the parish looking for somewhere to stay. Could you give them accommodation for the night?



The idea of the Posada is to offer hospitality – not just to the Holy Family but also to the people who cared for them the day before.

If you would like to take part please read the information sheet that is available in church and complete one of the forms at the back of the church.

Christingle and the Children's Society

During Advent you are invited to collect money and pray for the work of the Childrens' Society.

The Children's Society supports vulnerable children through working with families in need and with individual children who can no longer live at home.

They are also involved in campaigning for support for children who have been victims of abuse and for those young people who are leaving the care system.

The Christingle has become associated with the Children's Society. It models the love of Christ for the world and the light that comes into the world at Christmas. Light that many young people need so desperately on their lives.

We encourage everyone to put a coin into their collecting candle each day during Advent and to say a prayer for children in need and for the work of the Children's Society.

The candles will be collected at the Christingle service on Christmas Eve.