

Prayer and Thanksgiving this week

People

- We pray for healing and wholeness for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit. We hold in prayer Wendy, Gareth Buchanan, Sybil, Roy, Sammy Smith, Ron Petts, Hayley and her family; we remember all those who care for them
- For Michael Hill as he prepares to bid farewell to his dear wife Eunice
- For our church family members: Peter Read; Dilys Reeves; Caroline, James, William, Katherine and Rebecca Robson

Community

- We pray for all who live and work in Holtspur and Beaconsfield
- We thank God for our witness and opportunities in this community
- We pray for Kiln Court and Hope Community Drop-In Café

Church

- Pray for strengthening relationships between all the Beaconsfield Churches as we seek to serve our community together in the coming year
- For the Beaconsfield Team Ministry for unity and fellowship

World

Dear Lord, give us the vision which can see your love in the world in spite of human failure.

Give us the faith to trust your goodness in spite of our ignorance and weakness.

Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts.

And show us what each one of us can do towards peace and unity in our world. Amen

Mission – Barnabas Fund

Prayers for the persecuted:

Pakistan:	May Christians be safe from the Islamist terror plans
Syria:	Kidnapped Syrian Christians under death threats from ISIS
Nepal:	Nepalese churches attacked after assembly rejected Hindu nation proposal
Pakistan:	For the family of a Christian man shot dead after wife renounced Islam
Laos:	For two believers who have been arrested for spreading Christianity
Cambodia:	For Vietnamese Christian Montagnards forced to return home despite persecution

Contacts at St Thomas'

Team Vicar:	The Revd Narinder Tegally - 01494 670460 narindertegally@btinternet.com (Mondays – day off)
Churchwardens:	Peter Honiball – 01494 689974 Andrew Snelling – 01494 676260
Hall Bookings:	Helen Poyser – 07517 151581 helenpoyser@yahoo.com

Sunday 20th December 2015



St. Thomas' Church, Holtspur

To transform lives through faith in Jesus

**We give you a warm welcome
as you join us**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.45am Church Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion
Celebrant and Preacher:
Revd Narinder Tegally

Readings

- **Micah 5. 2 – 5a (p. 933)**
- **Luke 1. 39 – 55 (p. 1026)**

If you would like prayer for yourself or for someone you are concerned for there will be someone from the prayer ministry group at the back of the church during a Communion or after the intercessions in a Morning Praise Service.

Collect for Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs
of this present age to see, with her,
our great salvation in Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen**

**4pm Carols and Readings by Candlelight
followed by mulled wine and mince pies**

Services and Events for Next Week

Tuesday 22nd

1.15pm Funeral Service of Mrs Eunice May Hill at Chilterns Crematorium
7pm Advent Guided Meditation at St Thomas' Church

Wednesday 23rd

2pm Christingle making in St Thomas Hall – come and join us

Thursday 24th – Christmas Eve

4.30pm Christingle Service with Carols
11pm Midnight Communion at St Michael's Church OR at
11.30pm Midnight Communion at St Mary's Church

Friday 25th – Christmas Day

8.30am Morning Prayer in Church
10am All- Age Christmas Communion

Sunday 27th First Sunday of Christmas

9.45am Church Prayer
10am Morning Praise with carols

Readings: 1 Samuel 2. 18 - 20, 26 (p. 273)
Luke 2. 41 – 51 (p. 1029)

Collect for First Sunday of Christmas

**God in Trinity,
eternal unity of perfect love:
gather the nations to be one family,
and draw us into your holy life
through the birth of Emmanuel,
our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen**

***(There will be NO Notice Sheet for
Sunday 27th December)**

Financial Pledges - Thank you to all those who have returned their pledged giving form. It is never too late if you haven't done so yet, but please give it to Ruth as she won't remember to check the box!

Congratulations - We congratulate Kevin appointed as Team Vicar in the Wallingford Team Ministry with both pastoral responsibility for the parishes of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell and Crowmarsh Gifford and having responsibility within wider Team for:

- initiation and development of work with children, families and young people, prioritising and facilitating this in an innovative way
- responsibility for developing links with new communities (>600 new houses planned) and Crowmarsh Gifford and having responsibility within wider team

We will be sad to see him and Lesley-Ann leave but send them both our love and prayers in their ministry ahead. Date for Kevin's final Sunday is yet to be confirmed.

Christmas Collections - Our donations at the Carols by Candlelight Service on 20 December and on Christmas Day will be given to Sharon International Ministries. Our donations at the Christmas Eve Christingle Service will be given to The Children's Society. There are special envelopes available for each of the charities so that Gift Aid may be reclaimed, so if you are a tax payer please pick up an envelope.

Dates to note:

- 23 Jan - 2.30pm Film Show
- 6 Feb - Holtspur Park fundraising evening 'Bingo and Chili'
- 12 Mar - Pelagos 'Quiet Day for Lent' led by Mrs Margaret Sentamu
- 7 May - RAF Halton Band Concert

Please e-mail your notices to debra@stmarysbeaconsfield.org.uk by **Thursday 12 noon** each week. Many thanks.



**Wishing a very Happy Birthday to...
Adrian Walden and Sharon Walters**

Job vacancy - St Mary's and St Thomas' are looking for a new part-time Communications Administrator to work in the Fitzwilliams Centre office alongside our existing team. We need someone that has had at least some experience or possesses the aptitude to use technology, social media and the Internet to communicate. This role is primarily focused on helping us expand and develop our communications, both inside and outside both churches and streamline communication between the two. If you are interested in finding out more, contact Jeremy Brooks at rector@stmarysbeaconsfield.org.uk.

