

**ALL SAINTS', SEDGLEY
11TH DECEMBER – ADVENT 3**

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Celebrant: The Revd Canon Peter Kerr
Readings: Isaiah 35 v 1-10
 James 5 v 7-10
Gospel: Matthew 11 v 2-11

10.30 am Holy Communion

Celebrant: The Revd Canon Peter Kerr
Readings: As Above
Readers: Tracey Dunn and Tony Proctor
Intercessions: Pam Hunt

6.30 p.m. Evensong

Officiant: Jan Humphries
1st Reading: James 5 v 7-10
2nd Reading: Matthew 11 v 2-11
Readers: John Grosvenor and Rosemary Moss

Please note that the altar candles will be lit 5 minutes before the start of each service to indicate the beginning of a period of silence until the service commences.

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Isaiah 35 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind

shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5 v 7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 11 v 2 – 11 - When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**There will be a 10am service every Wednesday at St Peters.
Next Sunday: 18th December – Advent 4**

8.00am Holy Communion
Celebrant: The Revd Sue Oliver
1st Reading: Isaiah 7 v 10-16
2nd Reading: Romans 1 v 1-7
Gospel: Matthew 1 v 18-25

10.30 am Junior Church Nativity
Celebrant: The Revd James Makepeace
Readings: As above
Readers: Cicely Thomas and John Looker
Intercessions: David Melhuish

6.30pm 9 Lessons and Carols
Officiant: Jan Humphries
1st Reading: Romans 1 v 1-7
2nd Reading: Matthew 1 v 18-25
Readers: Greg Ball and Jane Hartshorne

Parish Office - The parish office is open from Monday – Friday 10-12.00 noon. My phone number: 01902 540289 and my email address is Admin@allsaintssedgley.co.uk. Can items for the pew sheet be sent to me by Wednesday 12 noon please. Thank you. Gail.

Available Services for Saturday 24th December

St Andrew's 4.00pm – Christingle
St Andrew's 5.30pm – Christingle
St Peter's 6.00pm – Christingle
St Andrew's 11.15pm – Midnight Communion – Jan Humphries
All Saints' 11.30pm – Midnight Mass – The Revd Lyn Rowson

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day

All Saints' 9.30am – The Revd James Makepeace
St Peter's 10.30am – The Revd Canon Judith Oliver

NOTICES

CHRISTINGLES - We will be making the Christingles on Friday 23rd December, in the Hall, from 2pm, if anyone would like to help. Refreshments will be provided! Barbara Price

THANK YOU - Jenny and I would like to thank everyone for their cards, telephone calls, visits, gifts and good wishes during this year, while I have been having numerous eye operations. Hopefully this latest, the 7th, will be the last! Our special thanks to Linda and Roy, and Keith and Brenda for all their help during this time, which is much appreciated. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year, and I hope to see you all soon. Rob Lavender.

THE NEXT FAIR TRADE STALL will be on Sunday 5th February 2017. Thanks to everyone who has supported us this year. Cicely

200 CLUB DRAW – took place on Tuesday 6th December at Noah's Ark Toddler Group and the winners were: Bob Hill, Linda Edwards and Joyce Withers.

THANK YOU – on behalf of Keith and myself we would like to thank you all in making the Christmas Fayre a success for us, a total of £1885.68 was raised on the day. Many thanks to everyone who helped and supported us. John Anderson.

BLACK COUNTRY FOODBANK - Our thanks to all of you who have donated recently. Our current shortages are: Long Life Fruit Juice; Long Life Milk; Jars of Coffee; Hot Chocolate; Tinned Fruit; Packets of Mashed Potato; Rice Pudding; Tinned Sponge Puddings; Tinned Vegetarian Ready Meals. Christmas selection packs for children would also be most welcome, and also Mince Pies and Christmas Puddings. If you are able to help we'd be most grateful. Thanks from all at Springs'

THANK YOU – to all who made the choir concert on Thursday 8th December such a great success. There were lots of raffle prizes and lovely food. Thank you to all who made it such a successful day. Joyce Withers

CHOIR PRACTICE – will take place on Tuesday 13th December at 2pm in the Church Hall.

We invite visitors who would normally take communion in their own church to join us in communion today. If this is not your practice, but you would like a blessing, please bring your service sheet with you to the Communion Rail to show that is what you wish. Should you have difficulty in negotiating the Chancel steps to receive communion, please inform the church wardens so that arrangements can be made for it to be brought to you. To enable those who are hard of hearing to join in the service radio loop is installed. To pick up from the loop turn the switch on your hearing aid to "T".