



## Three Churches Newsletter November 2018

St John Baptist, Hugglescote  
St Christopher's, Ellistown  
St Mary's, Snibston



### Advent Reflection

***Hello darkness my old friend,  
I've come to talk to you again.***

The opening lyrics from Simon and Garfunkel's 'Sound of Silence.'

Advent is the season of darkness before the light and joy of Christmas. The darkest time of the year, and in the Christian tradition kept as a time of reflection and meditation. A time to embrace the darkness as an old friend.

When I go on retreat to Tymawr Convent in Monmouthshire one of the best times of the day is the last hour before Compline which is kept for silent prayer. (Compline is the night office, the last prayers of the day).

The chapel is in darkness. It is a powerful, moving time of prayer, shadowy figures in the gloom, with the sanctuary light flickering near the altar. All is quiet.

It is a time to grow close to God, to allow one's thoughts and prayers to rise to the surface, to bring cares and concerns into the presence of God. The darkness of Advent gives us that same space to dwell in the dark places of our souls.

And it is in the darkness that we learn to yearn for the light. Advent is also about longing, waiting, looking with expectation and hope for the one who is to come and who will dispel the dark with his healing and redemption.

The four weeks of Advent are sometimes thought of as symbolising four different ways that Christ comes into the world:

- In his birth, as a helpless babe in Bethlehem
- His arrival in the hearts of believers
- Through his death and resurrection
- His arrival on judgement day.

Christ comes as Emmanuel, God with us, entering into our humanity, sharing our frailties and understanding our troubles.

And then Christ comes to live within us if we invite him, to take up residence within our hearts. 'Abide in me,' says Jesus, 'and I will abide in you.' The very presence of Christ is ours to know.

Then consider the unbelievable joy and wonder when Jesus comes as the resurrected Christ to those who know him and love him. 'My Lord and my God' gasps Thomas, in recognition, doubts dispelled, faith soaring.

Finally, the coming that we are all still awaiting, the coming of Christ that will restore all, heal all, bring all to completion, that will answer all our longings for righteousness, justice and wholeness, that will answer all our questions. Can we allow this longing – for Christ to return – to take root within us.

This Advent, take time to reflect – inhabit the darkness and in your prayer pray and yearn for the coming of Christ into your lives, hearts and into our world.

*Lord Jesus, activate our hearts during this Advent, so that we may find your presence hidden in ourselves. May we unveil the mystery of Christ-with-us and work towards the true restoration of the whole world in your image. Amen*



#### CLERGY CONTACT DETAILS

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## Diary for December 2018

### Sunday 2nd Dec. – Advent Sunday

**8:00 am Holy Communion, St. John's**  
**9:30 am Family 'Toys on the Table' Service, St. John's**  
**3:00 pm Advent Messy Church & Christingle, St. Christopher's**

Mon. 3rd Dec.

9:15 am Coffee & Chat, St. Christopher's  
1:00 pm Visit to Hugglescote School to help with Christmas Competition – meet at school  
7:30 pm Explore Group Meeting, St. Christopher's

Tues. 4th Dec.

6:00 pm Evening Prayer, St. John's  
7.30pm St Christopher's Project meeting at St Christopher's

Thurs. 6th Dec.

9:30 am Holy Communion, St. Christopher's  
3:00 pm After School Clubs, St. Christopher's

### Sunday 9th Dec. – 2nd of Advent

~~8:30am Holy Communion, St. Mary's – no service~~  
**10:00 am Joint Service at St. John's to celebrate Olwen's 10th anniversary as Rector of the Parish - Refreshments after**  
**4:00 pm Carol Service & Tea for Older Folk, Hugglescote Community Centre**

Mon. 10th Dec.

9:15 am Coffee & Chat, St. Christopher's

Tues. 11th Dec.

2:00 pm Mothers' Union in the Broughton Lounge

6:00 pm Evening Prayer, St. John's

Weds. 12th Dec.

10:30 am Holy Communion, St. John's

Thurs. 13th Dec.

3:00 pm After School Clubs, St. Christopher's

Sat. 15th Dec.

3:00 pm Ellistown Community Cinema, St. Christopher's (Incredibles 2)  
7.00pm Carols and Poems St Mary's Snibston

### Sunday 16th Dec. – 3rd of Advent

**8:00 am Holy Communion, St. John's**  
**9:30 am Nativity Service, St. John's**  
**11:15 am Parish Communion, St. Christopher's**  
**6:30 pm Jacob's Ladder 'Alternative Nativity', St. John's**

Mon. 17th Dec.

9:15 am Coffee & Chat, St. Christopher's  
9:30 am Hugglescote School Christmas Concert Rehearsal, St. John's

Tues. 18th Dec.

10:00 am Hugglescote School Christingle Service, St. John's  
7:00 pm Hugglescote School Christmas Concert, St. John's

Weds. 19th Dec.

10:30 am Holy Communion, St. John's  
2:00 pm Ellistown Afternoon Social Group Meeting, St. Christopher's

Thurs. 20th Dec.

9:30 am Holy Communion & Coffee Morning, St. Christopher's  
2:00 pm Ellistown School Christmas Service, St. Christopher's  
3:00 pm After School Clubs, St. Christopher's

Fri. 21st Dec.

6:00 pm Pop-Up Nativity & Carols, St. Christopher's

Sat. 22nd Dec.

7:00 pm Broom Leys Choral Society Christmas Concert, St. John's

### Sunday 23rd Dec. – 4th of Advent

**8:00 am Holy Communion, St. John's**  
**9:30 am Parish Communion, St. John's**  
**11:15 am Parish Communion, St. Christopher's**  
**6:00 pm Parish Carol Service, St. John's**

Mon. 24th Dec. – Christmas Eve

**4:00 pm Hugglescote Churches Together Christingle Service, St. John's**  
**9:00 pm Christmas Service, St. Christopher's**  
**11:30 pm Midnight Mass, St. John's**

Tues. 25th Dec. – Christmas Day

**9:00 am Holy Communion, St. Mary's**  
**10:30 am Family Communion, St. John's**

### Sunday 30th Dec. – 1st of Christmas

**8:00 am Holy Communion, St. John's**  
**9:30 am Parish Communion, St. John's**  
**11:15 am Parish Communion, St. Christopher's**

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### FUNERALS

**At St. Christopher's & Hugglescote Cemetery**  
6th Nov. Owen Brian John Catesby-Sharpe Age 23 yrs