

ST GUTHLAC'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

Wishing you all a very Happy and Blessed Christmas and New Year!

Rector: Revd Marc Cooper
The Rectory, Rectory Close, Fishtoft PE21 0RZ
01205 363216
rector@fishtoftchurch.org.uk

Lay Reader with PTO: Mrs Angela Gilbert 01205 760703

Churchwardens: Mrs Joyce Harness 01205 384073
Mrs Christine Senior 01205 839299

Cluster Priests: Revd Andrew Higginson 01205 760480
Revd David Kendrew (retired) 01205 837186

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Helen Moore 01205 352777
safeguarding@fishtoftchurch.org.uk

Websites: www.fishtoftchurch.org.uk
www.achurchnearyou.com/church/14645/
or follow us on Facebook



DIARY

We will be moving into the Community Room for our normal services from now until Spring as the costs of heating the main nave through another winter are simply too high. We are asking people to please continue to remain safe by wearing a mask – we have arranged chairs to allow for social distancing and will keep the room well ventilated. Please stay at home if you have any cold-like symptoms. We also encourage people to take regular lateral flow COVID tests. Please note however that our special Christmas services will be held in the main church.

Wed 1st Dec 7.30pm-8.30pm RoadHoG bus on Fishtoft Playing Field
Fri 3rd Dec 7.30pm Boston Youth Jazz Orchestra Concert
Sat 4th Dec 10.00am – 2pm Christmas Fayre

Sunday 5th December – Advent 2

11.00 am Christingle Service (in the main church)

Mon 6th 7.30 pm Advent Bible Study 2 in the Community Room

Wed 8th 8pm Compline on Zoom

Sunday 12th December – Advent 3

Online Service (with Spiritual Communion) – available from 11am on Facebook and YouTube or via the links on our website.

6.30 pm Holy Communion in church

Mon 13th 7.30 pm Advent Bible Study 3 in the Community Room

Wed 15th 7.30pm-8.30pm RoadHoG bus on Fishtoft Playing Field

Sunday 19th December – Advent 4

4.00 pm Carol Service

Fri 24th Christmas Eve

3.30 pm Crib Service

10.00 pm Christ-mass Late Night Communion Service

Sat 25th Christmas Day - Online Christmas Holy Communion

Sunday 26th December – St Stephen's Day

10.00 am Joint Christmas Communion Service at Butterwick *(no service at St Guthlac's)*

Sunday 2nd January 2022

11.00 am Holy Communion

FOODBANK - Thank you for your brilliant support for this project – donations can be left in the box at the back of church and these are taken on a regular basis to help the homeless and those in need in Boston and are always very gratefully received. This year we have been encouraged in our Advent Sunday sermon to have a go at a **“reverse Advent calendar”** It's a really simple idea and a great way to give to the community. Instead of opening a door on an advent calendar in the run up to Christmas, you take a box or large shopping

bag and each day put one essential item (tinned or dried food or toiletries) to be given out to those who are vulnerable and in need in the town. The boxes can then be brought to church to be delivered and ideally we would like to do this in the week before Christmas even if that means we can't do the full 24 days. Some families are struggling more than ever this year and this is a great way to show our love and support for each other. We hope you can join in!

“Sanctum” – church open for all - Please call in if you are passing and help spread the word that the church is usually open during daylight hours Monday – Saturday. (There will be times when access will be restricted due to cleaning - usually on Thursday mornings - and occasional events and services.) We are so glad that it is already becoming a familiar place for many people in our village as a place of peace, retreat and prayer.

If you are visiting or new to the church please fill in a “Keep in Touch” form from the back of church which gives consent for us to keep your contact details and let you know about special events etc.

ROADHOG - RoadHog is now back up and running and young people can come on board once again. All young people in school year 6 and above are welcome. There are games and quizzes and as much free hot chocolate, tea, coffee and squash as you can drink! The team is currently looking for new members who can help out when the bus visits on a Wednesday evening. Training is provided - if you think you might be able to help please let us know and please remember the work of the team in your prayers. Thank you.

Recycling of cans – We are still collecting used drinks cans to raise money for the church. Please bring your flattened cans to church and leave them in the bin in the porch. Many thanks for your support.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

We are very excited to be able to hold these events again in church this year. Please support them as this is the first time we have been able to have any fundraising events for a long time!

We would be very grateful for any donations of raffle prizes, bottles, chocolates, cakes, Christmas gifts etc for these events which can be left at the back of church before Sat 3rd Dec or collected. Thank you!

Boston Youth Jazz Orchestra

Friday 3rd December 7.30 pm

Tickets £10.00 per adult and £5 for accompanied children to include glass of wine/soft drink and mince pie. Entry by ticket only (facemasks must be worn please).



Christmas Fair

Saturday 4th December 10 am - 2 pm

Please come along and support our Christmas Fair - Raffles, tombolas, refreshments and craft stalls.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christingle Service – 11am Sunday 5th December - *a service to remember the Light of Christ coming into the World at which you will receive your own Christingle.*

Carol Service - 4pm Sunday 19th December

A more traditional service with carols and readings. We will be joined by the Haven Singers

Crib Service - 3.30pm Christmas Eve 24th December

This is a fun, child-friendly celebration for the young and young at heart – if you have a knitted lamb from your baptism please bring it with you (but don't worry if you haven't!)

Christ-Mass – a Late night Communion Service for Christmas.

10pm Christmas Eve 24th December

A service full of the mystery of this Holy Night.

There will also be an online Christmas Holy Communion service available to watch on Christmas Day.

**At the heart
of Christmas**



The Church of England's theme this year is the "Heart of Christmas" and booklets are available in church for £1.00. These have daily reflections over the 12 days of Christmas – from Christmas Day until Epiphany.