



Thoughts, notices and reminders
December 2 2018

God of hope
be with us in our Advent journey
to the stable and beyond,
be with us in our meeting
and in our travelling together,
be with us in our worship
and our praying together,
be with us in our Advent journey
to the stable and beyond,
our God of hope.

For all church enquiries please contact Rachel Fleshbourne, our parish administrator
admin@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk

01522 850276

Web site: www.stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk

Any items for this weekly sheet should be received by Rachel
no later than Wednesday evening.

If you would like to receive this weekly sheet by email, please e-mail Rachel

THE PRAYER PAGE

Saint's Day	Prayer in the parish	Prayer in the diocese
Sunday Advent Sunday	Jackie Howell Residents of: Asterby Close, Aubourn Avenue, Aylesby Avenue, Bain Street	COME, LORD JESUS. MAY WE PRAY WITH CONFIDENCE AND JOY AS WE FOCUS ON OUR FUTURE HOPE
Monday St Francis Xavier Apostle of the Indies	Our Lady of Lincoln church and school Fr Colin, the clergy and people; the staff, governors and pupils of Our Lady Primary School Residents of: Barkston Gardens, Bassingham Crescent, Bilsby Close, Blankney Crescent	FOR CHURCH SCHOOLS IN THE ISLE OF AXHOLME DEANERY
Tuesday John of Damascus Teacher	Ermine House Residents of: Brattleby Crescent, Broxholme Gardens, Buchanan Street, Burnside Close	FOR THE MEETING OF THE TRANSFORMATION FUND PANEL. THE BELTON GROUP
Wednesday	Our parish visitors Residents of: Burwell Close, Cabourne Avenue, Carlton Grove, Carlton Walk	THE CROWLE GROUP
Thursday St Nicholas Bishop of Myra	Flower arrangers, Community Larder Residents of: Chatterton Avenue, Clarendon Gardens, Clarendon View, David Avenue,	THE READERS IN OUR DIOCESE
Friday St Ambrose Bishop of Milan	Staff and users of the church hall Paul Musson, Olive Musson, Liz Straw, the hall committee and all hall users Residents of: Dunholme Court, Dunston Close, Edendale Gardens, Edendale View	THE EPWORTH GROUP
Saturday Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	The lunch club; Guides and Brownies Sue Fleshbourne and the lunch club team Residents of: Edlington Close, Epworth View, Ermine Close, Escombe View	THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILS AND DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCILS OF OUR DIOCESE

Give thanks for:	Our Christmas fair;
Special prayers this week for:	Guidance for our leaders at this time of uncertainty;
People in need:	Fr John Clark, Irene Crosby, Dick Moore, Joan Pratt, Kathleen Smith, Ruth Spreadbury, Monica Wooster
Rest in peace:	

Coming up this week:

Sunday 2	10:00am	Eucharist
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	12:00pm	Baptisms
Monday 3	7:00pm	Advent stations
Tuesday 4	7:00pm	PCC meeting
Wednesday 5	9:30am 10:30am 11:15am 12:00pm	Eucharist Ruckland Court Eucharist Ermine House Eucharist Christmas Lunch club in the hall
Thursday 6	7:00pm	Ermine Voices
Sunday 9	10:00am 12:00pm 2:30pm	Family Eucharist Parish Christmas dinner Ruckland Court Songs of Praise

Coming up soon:

Tuesday 11	6:00pm	Brownie and Guide carol service
Wednesday 12	9:30am 10:30am 7:30pm	Eucharist with advent stations Choir practice St John's Singers
Thursday 13	7:00pm	Ermine Voices
Friday 14	7:30pm	Ermine Voices Christmas concert in church
Sunday 16	10:00am 6:00pm	Eucharist Carol service
Tuesday 18	10:00am	Ermine Academy Christmas performance in church
Wednesday 19	9:30am	Eucharist
Sunday 23	10:00am	Eucharist
Monday 24	10:00am 6:00pm 11:45pm	Christingle making Christingle service Midnight Mass
Sunday 30	10:00am	Eucharist
Wednesday 2	9:30am 10:30am 11:15am 12:00pm	Eucharist Ruckland Court Eucharist Ermine House Eucharist Lunch club in the hall
Sunday 6	10:00am 12:00pm	Family Eucharist (Epiphany) Baptisms
Wednesday 9	9:30am 10:30am	Eucharist Mothers Union

PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our parish Christmas lunch will take place on Sunday 9 December at 12:00pm. The price is £4:00 for adults and £2:00 for children. If you wish to attend, please add your name to the list at the back of church.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

If you would like to send a Christmas greeting to people at church and help raise funds for our charity, the, Macmillan Cancer Support, all you need to do is to note your greeting below and leave it in the basket at the back of church or give it to your church visitor. Please place your greeting in a sealed envelope with your donation – if you wish to make a donation by cheque, please make the cheque payable to “St John the Baptist PCC”. All greetings in by December 12th please. Your greeting will be included in our Christmas greetings leaflet and our charity benefits as well – and don’t forget not to send anyone in church a Christmas Card, use the Christmas Greetings instead!

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

My message

My name

Please put this slip with your donation in the basket at the back of church

A LETTER FROM BISHOP CHRISTOPHER

November was a time of remembrance. The Feast of All Saints, the Feast of All Souls, and we also remembered the end of the First World War.

There was not a single family in Britain, France and Germany unacquainted with grief; nor a corner of life unaffected. I was in Boston Stump for a festival of remembrance that included several exhibits about the impact of the war on the lives of the people of Boston.

For me the most graphic image was a street map of Boston in 1918 on which a black dot had been placed on each house where a family member had died in that conflict. Boston was much smaller then, but there was hardly a house without one or more

dots – 200 in all.

Rather than people returning to a land fit for heroes, the soldiers who returned came home to unemployment and to a nation that did not show gratitude to those who fought for it. We have begun to learn this lesson.

War also led us to understand the nature of God in a different way.

During the war itself and in the decades that followed we uncovered something new in our understanding of God. Put simply: if God is loving and all-powerful, how could evil be allowed to flourish on this devastating scale? And why would we continue to trust in a God indifferent to our fate?

One person who wrestled with these questions was Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy. He was an army chaplain who earned the nickname Woodbine Willie for handing out cigarettes to the troops at the same time as copies of the New Testament.

Woodbine Willie insisted on being on the front line with the troops whenever he could. Those battlefield experiences forced him to confront depths of evil and suffering which few of us will ever see.

Having entered the war with a secure faith in God and an abstract notion of evil, he ended it being absolutely certain of the existence of evil as a real force at work in the world. The challenge, then, was to find a way to reconcile all that he had seen in the trenches with the existence of a God who was worth believing in.

For Woodbine Willie, hope came with an understanding that God was no longer the almighty force of his pre-war understanding, able to prevent humans from harming one another if he so chose. Instead, God was present in the heat of battle, suffering along with humanity, in the intolerable conditions of the trenches, in the endless slaughter of young lives. God was characterised not by force and power, but by love; no longer remote from all that was going on, but intimately connected with it and suffering through it.

God has planted in each one of us the greatest potential for love; and yet, evil exists and because evil often expresses itself in violence it has to be confronted with force and violence, whether between nations or within a nation.

After the war, despite everything he had seen, Woodbine Willie was able to write, 'The universe is as an "unfinished movement" in which the underlying melody is love.'

The God we believe in brings love out of hate; light out of darkness; justice out of oppression; good out of evil; life out of death. This is our God, and his name is Love. Our acts of remembrance during November helped us to prepare for the season of advent as we remember the first coming of Christ and prepare for his second coming. To remember helps us to be mindful of what it means for Christ to be born in us today.

With every blessing,

+Christopher



Council of Christians & Jews
Lincoln & District Branch



Lincoln Minster
Preparatory School

We jointly invite you to

A Celebration of Hanukkah and Advent

kindly hosted by the

Church of our Lady of Lincoln
Thursday 6 December

at 6.30 p.m.



**The Jewish festival
of Hanukkah and the
Christian season of
Advent have in**



**common the symbol of light marked
by the lighting of candles. The
pupils of the Prep School will join
with members of CCJ Lincoln to
celebrate the joy and excitement of
these festivals**

All welcome - no booking required

**The Church is on the corner of Cabourne Avenue &
Laughton Way (LN2 2HE) - parking on site or on
Cabourne Court adjacent to it**

For more information please contact Steve Griffiths on
01522 806077 or by email at stephen.g.griffiths@ntlworld.com



Ermine Voices

MERRY
LITTLE
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT!

FEATURING

Schools from the Ermine Music
Outreach project!

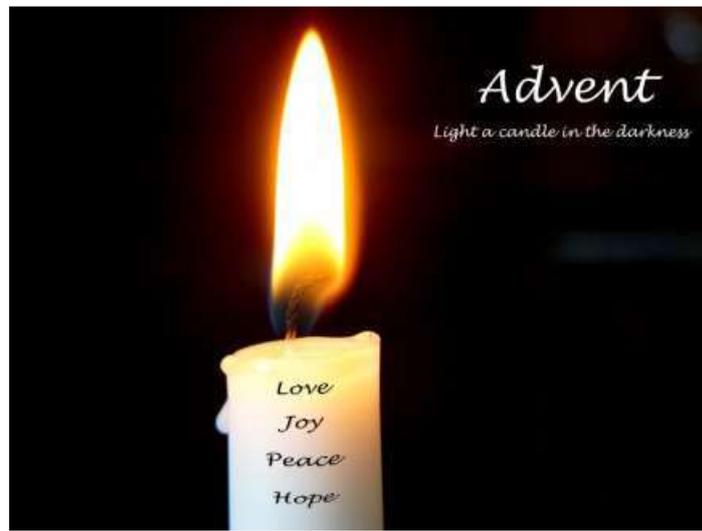


**Ermine
music**

DECEMBER 14TH, 7:30pm

St. John the Baptist Parish Church,
LN2 2EF





THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors:
To you be praise and glory for ever.
You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith
and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment.
May we be obedient to your call
and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ,
a lamp to our feet and a light to our path,
for you are our light and salvation.
Blessed be God forever.

The first Advent Candle is lit in silence, then we say together

**Lord Jesus, light of the world
Born in David's city of Bethlehem
Born like him to be a king:
Be born in our hearts at Christmas
Be King of our lives today.**

We sing

Come my Lord, my light, my way
Come my lantern, night and day
Come my healer, make me whole,
Come my Saviour, protect my soul.
Come my King, enter my heart
Come Prince of Peace and never depart