

St Peter's Church is part of the Team Parish of Ipsley which consists of St Peter's Ipsley, St John's Greenlands and Christ Church Matchborough.

CONTACTS

- **Rector:** Canon Garth Nathaniel
Email: g.nathaniel@btinternet.com
Rectory: 522847
- **Parish Wardens:** Andrea Mortimer 524179
Judy Evans 404522
- **Church Wardens:** Judy Evans 404522
Linda Nicholas 451635
- **Treasurer:** Pam Butler 520051
- **Church Office:** Martin Handy 516351
Email: stpeter_ipsley@btopenworld.com
- **Pastoral Care:** The Rector 522847; 07949490265
- **Children's Clubs:** Church Office
- **Home Visits:** Church Office
- **St Peter's Pantry:** Jacqui 404287
- **Bell Ringing:** Rosie Humphrey 526153

Notices for "The Catch" to the office

PASTORAL CARE IN ST PETER'S:

We have a very supportive Pastoral Care team. If you have any concerns, need prayer or someone to talk to or who can help you in a practical way please contact the Rector, Canon Garth Nathaniel, either by leaving a phone message on the office phone or directly via the Rectory.

HOUSE GROUPS

Tues pm: Linda Nicholas 451635
Tues eve: John Butler 520051
Wed eve: Judy Evans 404522
For further information please contact the group leader.



Children's Activities @ St Peter's

Godly play 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at

St. Peters@9:45

Weekday Clubs:

Scramblers for 0-5 years on Mondays
in term time.

Cool Zone

for 7-11 years—6:30 pm

Christ Church Matchborough

Youth Club 7:30 -9:30 at Christ Church



The Catch

Weekly News sheet for St Peter's Church, in the Parish of Ipsley



Advent 4 & Christmas 1

WELCOME TO ST PETER'S

22nd & 29th December 2019

Collect for Advent 4

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming
as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

PREACHING THEMES FOR TODAY

9:45 am Away in a Manger: Joseph

11:15 am Advent Gives Promise

Isaiah 7:10-16;
Matthew 1:18-25

6:30 pm 9 Lessons and Carols
Lamplight Service

Today's Services

9:45 am Advent Joy
11:15 am Christmas Praise
6:30 pm Evening Worship

Diary For The Week

9:00 am	Morning Prayers	Mon 23
9:00 am	Morning Prayers	Tue 24
3:00 pm	Nativity	
4:30 pm	Nativity	
11:15 pm	Midnight Communion	Wed 25
9:00 am	Christmas Communion	
10:30 am	Christmas Worship	Fri 27
9:00 am	Morning Prayer	
7:00 pm	Bell Ringing	Sun 29
9:45 am	Celebration	
11:15 am	Holy Communion	
6:30 pm	Evening Worship	

The office will be closed over the Christmas period, however messages and emails will be checked on a regular basis. If you need assistance please contact the Rector or the wardens, contact numbers on the back page.

*A Very Merry Christmas
from Garth, Jenny and all in
the St. Peter's team!*

Rector's Reflection

Each Advent we wait with the prophets and with all of creation for the birth of the promised Saviour. The prophets' call grows silent for 400 years and then suddenly out of nowhere the Almighty God stretches forth His hand to a small town and calls a seemingly insignificant young girl and she says "yes." The God of the universe humbles himself and makes himself flesh, to fully humble himself, and to fully walk with us in our sorrow. He takes the form of a helpless babe. It is a great mystery, the Incarnation, God with us: Emmanuel.

Like creation from Adam until the last prophet or like Mary expecting a baby, we embrace the mystery of waiting and we lovingly prepare our hearts. It is time we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. John the Baptist, the last and greatest prophet, was sent by God to prepare us for the Messiah.

Although the Church celebrates the season, Advent is absent from the everyday world in which we live. Sadly, it is also often missing from our own homes.

Our entire Christian faith is based upon the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus. However, in the world in which we live we are given no time to prepare for the birth of our Lord and Saviour and then no time to celebrate it once we get there. Christmas decorations explode into stores right after the Halloween merchandise comes down and then the season abruptly ends the day after Christmas.

The very heart of both Advent and Christmas—Jesus—has been ripped away and all we are left with is an abstract "Holiday" season. Songs of Frosty the Snowman and Santa Claus blare over the loudspeaker. The Christmas season has become completely devoid of Christ. For the wider world it is no better than a hyper-commercialized pagan holiday.

Let us, as God's people reclaim the beauty and longing of the season of Advent and celebrate it with the Church throughout the world.

Rev'd Canon Garth Nathaniel

Parish Giving Scheme: If you have received confirmation that the start date for your Direct Debit will be January you may need to do one of the following:

1. Cancel your standing order once the payment for December has been made.
2. Stop using the weekly envelopes when you have used the last one dated for December.

Don't forget to check for cards in the Christmas Post boxes! Remember that they might be sorted alphabetically by first name OR last name.

Christmas Service Flyers are now available if you would like to take some to distribute in your street.

Malcolm Smith has sadly passed away. His funeral is to be held on the 2nd January at 11am in St. Peter's, Ipsley, followed by 12:30pm at the Abbey Cemetery.

"ALWAYS KEEP ON PRAYING" for:

Juan Carlos and Penny Marces in Peru: For their work with couples and with children and families.

Those who are sick: Asher Hardy, Graham Twist, Betty Wood, Tia, Kate Bainbridge, Chris Tilley, Andrew Johnson, Alex Street, Peter Barcham, Joanne Heaselgrave, Erica Dilger, Michael Hawkins, Mark Brunner, Glynis Horton, Linda Grummet, Janet Tegg, Steve Thomas, Jane Gray and Kenny Morgan, Iyra Dutton.

Those who have died: For Val Smith on the passing of her husband, Malcom.

Our Nation: Pray for our government at this critical time. For our local councillor Juliet Brunner, and for our MP Rachel Maclean.

Parish Prayers: Easenhall Close, Matchborough; Kingham Close, Winyates Green; Kingstone Place, Woodrow; Blakemere Close, Winyates

CPAS: Pray for worship and witness at the thousands of Christmas services taking place this week, and for those who aren't Christians to meet with God at the events they attend. Pray also for Haslemere New Year, a reunion of young people from the last three years of Haslemere Ventures, as they come together to enjoy inspiring teaching and uplifting worship.

World: Pray for all those who suffer. That we may seek God's guidance and discernment to the various ways of how we can help.

Chaplaincies: Chaplains and volunteers in retail and industrial chaplaincy in Redditch, prison chaplaincy, and hospital chaplaincy. Padres to the Air, Army and Sea Cadets.

Churches Together: Pray that guests to Radiate Redditch will be able to provide company, support and friendship to the guests that find their way there over the Christmas period. Pray that each one of them may be able to encounter the love of Christ.

Annual New Years Day walk: Do join us for the annual 3 mile walk from Sue's (Wellfield Cottage, B97 5QG) on Wednesday 1st January @12noon. Note it may be muddy so wellies might be advisable. If you don't fancy the walk do join us for soup afterwards from 1:45 pm.

Christmas Eve

Nativity service at 3pm and 4:30pm, the children are invited to dress as a character in the nativity story.

Midnight communion at 11:15pm

Christmas Day

9:00 am said communion

10:30 am Christmas Celebration