ST DENYS CHURCH BULLETIN, Sunday 22nd November 2026, Christ the King, Sunday next before Advent, Stir Up Sunday

Readings for today: Ephesians 1 vs 15-end; Matthew 25 vs 31-end

Dear Friends. About 2 weeks ago, I made our Christmas cake. This year, I may make a Dundee cake as well. My Mum used to make a Christmas cake, mincemeat, Christmas puddings and a Dundee cake for Christmas each year; I quite often helped her. I have made a Christmas cake each year, since. For several years, I made mincemeat but not Christmas puddings or Dundee cake.

I think it was my second sermon after I had been licensed as a Reader, that I preached on 'Stir up' Sunday. I remember starting my sermon by asking people if they had made their Christmas puddings yet, as this was the traditional time for making them. In my sermon I mentioned some of the ingredients used in the puddings, and how they tie in with our Christian life – and with some of the words of the 'Stir up' Collect.

Quite a lot of you will know that the Sunday before Advent Sunday has, for a long time, been known by the name, 'Stir up' Sunday, as the Collect started with the words: 'Stir up, O Lord…', although by the time of the Alternative Service Book, there were two Collects available for this Sunday. (In the Book of Common Prayer, there is just the one, 'Stir up', Collect for the Sunday before Advent.) With the Revised Lectionary, and then Common Worship, this Sunday has become known as 'Christ the King', with a new Collect, but we have not lost the 'Stir up' prayer, as it is now used as the Post Communion prayer for this Sunday. And this 'Stir up' prayer can be used as the Collect at Morning and Evening Prayer during the week.

This Sunday is the Sunday next before Advent, when we celebrate Christ the King. As we approach Advent, and in the season of Advent, may we take time to reflect on where we stand in our Christian lives; where we stand with God; and if there are any areas where we need to be 'stirred up'. **Geraldine.**

COMING UP

Sunday 22nd 10am Holy Communion in church & on Zoom, ID: 820 0369 6332 (password from Qyan)

Monday 23rd 9.30am School Visit in church

Monday 23rd 10am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 24th 9am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 24th 9.30am School Visit in church

Wednesday 25th 9.30am School Visit in church

Thursday 26th 10am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion in church

Thursday 26th 10am – 12pm Open Church

Thursday 26th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Thursday 26th 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre

Holy Communion with hymns will be held this coming Sunday 22nd November at 10am. All welcome. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Book of Common Prayer (BCP said) Holy Communion will take place in church on Thursday 26th November at 10am followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

Wreath Making Workshops in the Parish Centre! If you haven't already booked a place at one of these sessions and would like to do so, please ring Peter Felstead on 07305 887989 to see where spaces might be available. The dates are Monday 30th November at 2pm and at 5.30pm. An extra session has been added for St. Denys church members only on Monday 14th December at 1.30pm until 4pm.

School Visits. We are very pleased to say that these begin next week! Canon Matthew would appreciate helpers who will guide and facilitate his sessions with the City of Leicester College this coming Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th November in the mornings. Please speak to him if you can do so. We also need help from volunteers to help manage future sessions in early – mid December. Please Revd Cecilia or Ann Bennett. Thank you.

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by Michael & Gerry

Join Michael and Gerry as they share photographs and stories from their recent Icelandic adventure, including:

- Spectacular glaciers and volcanic landscapes
- Reykjavík and its unique culture
- Visits to magnificent puffin colonies
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WEDNESDAY
2nd DECEMBER 2026

6.00PM

St. Denys Parish Centre



OPTIONAL TRADITIONAL ICELANDIC SUPPER

ONLY £10 PER PERSON

Deadline for ordering supper:
Monday 23rd November

Good food Great company!

— ALL WELCOME —

DISCOVER • EXPLORE • BE INSPIRED



Christmas Open Church! On Saturday 12th December 10.30am – 2.30pm *and* Sunday 13th December 11.30am – 2pm, the church will be open for all. There will be cakes, crafts, a raffle and light refreshments available. **This will also be an opportunity to meet your new Vicar, Revd Cecilia!** Please come along to what promises to be a wonderful social occasion. Help will be needed on the day, please speak to Janette Pearson if you are able to assist.

We also need help at the Crib/Christingle service on Christmas Eve at 4pm with the children who attend and dress up in appropriate costumes. Please speak to Ann Bennett if you can help.

O worship the King, all glorious above, O gratefully sing his power and his love: our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days, pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise. ***(Robert Grant 1779 – 1838)***

Collect for Christ the King God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. Amen.

Collect for Stir Up Sunday Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the good fruit of thy works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for the sick: Ann Dixon, Sue Mitchell

Pray for the family and friends of those who mourn including Paddy McCarron





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CONTACTS

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