



Sunday Snippets

2nd December 2018

Advent Begins Today

It must be Advent because the local shop is selling Easter eggs! And Julian complains about the commercialism of Christmas (see his piece in this month's Parish Magazine). His is a very good point and it is the same for every season and 'special' day. Advent calendars have been seen as a good money-spinner for some time and gone are the days

when a picture or a small piece of chocolate in the windows gave such innocent pleasure. The contents now have reached ridiculous proportions and prices. One store has Advent calendars containing tools. Now there's a challenging subject for a sermon! For Christians, the season of Advent is about being a people who are ready – ready to celebrate the coming of Jesus, not just ticking off the Sundays before Christmas. It's a time for spiritual reflection and praying that we are ready to welcome God into our lives. Sticking with tradition, we will be lighting our first candle in the Advent Ring (wreath) today. This represents the Old Testament patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Joseph, the forerunners of our faith.



It is also known as the candle of Hope. The wreath is a circle of evergreen plants such as holly and ivy which symbolises God with no beginning and no end. The evergreen is a reminder that God does not change and the holly is also a symbol of the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified.



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Today's Advent Prayer

Blessed are you, God of all time. To you be praise and glory for ever. Throughout history you have called your people to live by the light of faith and to journey in the hope that your promises will be fulfilled. May we, in our days on earth, obey your call and be ready and watchful to receive Christ. For he is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. He is your Son and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

Evening Service

Our Service at 6.30pm today will be a Sunday Evening 'Quiet Time'. This will provide an ideal opportunity for Advent reflection and a refuge from the hurly-burly to come.



A Wonderful Effort

A big well done and thanks to all who were involved in last evening's activities and for the preparations. Father Christmas's grotto in the vestry was almost magical and a tremendous amount of time had been spent in erecting the



lighting in and around the church. Preparing the hall for the Fair involves a good number of people and much has gone on in the background for some time, much of it unnoticed but all vital to the success of the event.

Church Porch

Once again, the children of St Edward's CE Primary School have made the decorations that adorn our entrance porch. These are appreciated not only by regular worshippers but will be a source of interest as the children and their families come to their carol services before the end of term. This week,

on Wednesday evening there is a signing service for those with hearing loss and on Friday morning the Honeyshute Pre-School have their Nativity.





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Mini Tree Festival

The Christmas trees that have suddenly appeared on our church window sills have each been



decorated with a specific colour and theme to represent a particular group

such as the Church Choir, Ladies' Share Prayer, etc. Do take a closer look.

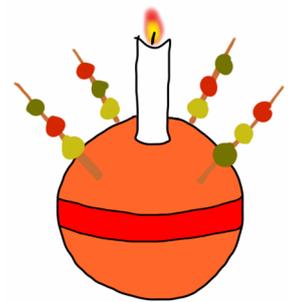
Next Week at Christ Church, Estover

On Monday, 3rd December there will be a Community Carol Service at 6.00pm at Christ Church, Estover and at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 5th December they are holding a Christingle Service. On Friday, 7th



December, in the Elm Centre, a Barn

Dance with Blue will take place from 7.00-10.30pm.



Parish Magazines

There are now copies of the December/January Parish Magazines available at the back of the church.



Only Joking!

While crossing the US-Mexican border on his bicycle, a man was stopped by a guard who pointed to two sacks the man had on his shoulders. "What's in the bags?" asked the guard. "Sand," said the cyclist. "Get them off - we'll take a look," said the guard. The cyclist did as he was told, emptied the bags and proving they contained nothing but sand, reloaded the bags, put them on his shoulders and continued across the border. Two weeks later the same thing happened.



Again the guard demanded to see the two bags, which again contained nothing but sand. This went on every week for six months. Then one day the guard happened to meet the cyclist downtown. "Say friend, you sure have us beat," said the guard. "We know you're smuggling something across the border. I promise I won't say a word. Please tell me what it is?" "Bicycles!" said the man.



Community Café

Please note that the Eggbuckland Community Café, which normally meets on Monday afternoons in the church hall, will be closed during December.

