

St Neots Parish Church (St Mary) & Eynesbury St Mary

# Welcome to Worship!

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024

The Second Sunday of Advent



## Services today

*N.B. Today, the hymn before the gospel is not in 'responsorial' form, but it is still a biblical canticle (Zechariah's Song – the Benedictus), and it is in the hymnbook.*

8 a.m.	Eucharist (BCP)	St Neots Parish Church
9.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St Neots Parish Church
<b>Hymns:</b>	<b>36; 392 (t.806); 42; Anthem + 50; 75</b>	<b>Thorne</b>
11 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	Eynesbury
<b>Hymns:</b>	<b>36; 392 (t.806); 42; 75</b>	<b>Thorne</b>
2.30 p.m.	Christingle-making workshop	SN Church Rooms
4 p.m.	Christingle Service	St Neots Parish Church

## Services & Events this week

Wednesday	09.30	Eucharist	SNPC
	11-12	MU Global Wave of Prayer	SNPC
	19.30	Additional Deanery Synod	Lt Paxton
		<i>No Healing Eucharist today – moved to next week</i>	
Thursday	09.30	Eucharist	Eynesbury
	5-6	Carol Singing in Waitrose	
Friday	09.30	Eucharist ( <i>St Lucy</i> )	SNPC

## Services for next Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December (Advent 3):

8 a.m.	Eucharist (BCP)	St Neots Parish Church
9.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St Neots Parish Church
11 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	Eynesbury
(3 p.m.	<i>St Neots Concert Band Christmas Concert at Berkley Street Methodist Church)</i>	

### Giving for the work of the Church

We do not pass a collection plate around the congregation during the service, but we always welcome donations from those who attend worship, either in cash or by using the card reader near the door at SNPC before or after the service.

Please Gift Aid that donation if you can do so (envelopes are available).

We also encourage regular givers to become members of the Parish Giving Scheme (which is how many Church members make their donations).

Please ask at the door, or via the Office, if you want more information about this.

*The Parish of St Neots with Eynesbury, Reg Charity No 1195248, in the Church of England Diocese of Ely.*

*Rector: The Revd Paul Hutchinson, The Rectory, Church Street, 01480 471297*

*Parish Office: Church Street, 01480 370312; [office@stneots.org](mailto:office@stneots.org) - [www.stneots.org](http://www.stneots.org) .*

*Weekly Sheet 20241208*

## **Collect for Advent 2**

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

## **Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3.1-4**

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

## **New Testament Reading: Philippians 1.3-11**

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

## **Gospel Reading: Luke 3.1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.  
Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ’

### **Alternative Collect**

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming  
that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **The Rector writes:-**

*Have you seen the recent pictures from the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris? When a church building is reopened after major fire damage, there’s always something of a thrill – I remember it well from more than one of Durham Diocese’s medieval churches back in the last century. But when the building is such an embodiment of national identity (not to mention famous literature) the wave of emotion in France will have been immense. The first pictures came ten days ago; yesterday was the formal opening; and today, Mass is celebrated once more, for the first time. The amazing work not only of rebuilding in historic materials, but also of cleaning the toxic residue of the fire (think of all that lead!) and the grime of the last two centuries, has been utterly immense. There could be no more fitting day for the resumption of the Cathedral’s primary purpose than today (the Feast of what our Book of Common Prayer calls ‘The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary’). From the parish of two Churches of St Mary the Virgin, we send our good wishes to Paris.*

### **Bell Louvres of St Neots (not Paris, yet...)**

If you have been looking up at the SNPC tower recently, you will have noticed that, one side at a time, all 32 of the boxes of bell louvres have been replaced with new materials. This work has been made possible by a very generous donation (for which we are immensely grateful), and has been carried out with great skill by Stricklands of Crowland, who are experts in working with major old buildings. Stricklands do other work on both our churches from time to time, and we are delighted with what they have been able to do here.

## **Used stamps (whether Christmas or normal)**

We now have a box for used stamps near the welcome table at SNPC. Paul Seward collects these to raise money for St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger. Every stamp makes a difference towards the wonderful work of the St John's Hospice: please put your used stamps in the box if you can.

## **Carols at Waitrose**

We're singing on the 12<sup>th</sup> for at least an hour (possibly more – it's the store's Open Evening) at 5pm. We have a small core, but definitely need more, whether choir members, members of the congregation, or other family and/or friends... All help welcome!

## **'Stay and Play' Christmas Movie Morning**

### **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 9.30am, SN Church Room**

Organised by our 'Stay and Play' group (formerly known as 'Play Church'), there will be a showing of 'Arthur Christmas' in the SNPC Church Room, for children and their parents/carers. The film starts at 10am, popcorn, sweets and drinks are served. Tickets are selling fast: booking is essential via the Parish Office, [office@stneots.org](mailto:office@stneots.org) 01480 370312

## **ALSO FURTHER AHEAD**

In addition to normal Sunday Morning and Weekday services between now and the end of the year, please add the following to your diaries:-

- Wednesday Dec 18<sup>th</sup> 11am Carols, then Communion at Poppyfields.
- 7.30pm Healing Eucharist at Eynesbury
- Thursday Dec 19<sup>th</sup> 10am St Mary's School Service at SNPC
- 2pm Eynesbury School Service at Eynesbury
- 7.30pm Carols Round the Organ at Eynesbury
- Sunday Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> 6pm SNPC Christmas Service of Lessons and Carols
- Monday Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am Communion with Carols at Henbrook Ho.
- Christmas Eve Crib Services: 4pm at SNPC; 5.30pm at Eynesbury.
- Midnight Eucharist at SNPC at 11pm
- Christmas Day Usual Eucharists at 8, 9.30, and 11
- Saturday Dec 28<sup>th</sup> Post-Christmas Saturday Social, 11-1.  
*Come and enjoy post-Christmas company!*
- Saturday Jan 4<sup>th</sup> SNPC choir sing Evensong at Bury St Edmunds

*And you might want to know that VAMPS of St Neots will be performing a musical version of 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame' at SNPC on 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> April!*