

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

Welcome to Worship!

Sunday 23rd November 2025

Sunday next before Advent (Christ the King)



Services today

8 a.m.	Eucharist (BCP)	St Neots Parish Church
9.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist <i>President & Preacher – The Rector</i>	St Neots Parish Church Thorne
Hymns:	486; 593 (omit**, t.415); 612; Anthem + 749 (1stt); 691	
11 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	Eynesbury
Hymns:	486; 593 (omit**, t.415); 612; 691	Thorne
3 p.m.	St Neots Big Band Concert	St Neots Parish Church
4 p.m.	Choral Evensong & Installation of Canons	Ely Cathedral

Services & Events this week

St Neots Parish Church is closed all week for set-up and performance

Wednesday	09.30	Eucharist	<u>Eynesbury</u>
	12.30	Funeral of Revd Derek Draper at Bromham Church	
Thursday	09.30	Eucharist	Eynesbury
	19.30	VAMPS performance of 'A Christmas Carol'	SNPC
Friday	09.30	Eucharist (followed by coffee and biscuits)	<u>Eynesbury</u>
	19.30	VAMPS performance of 'A Christmas Carol'	SNPC
Saturday	11.00	VAMPS performance of 'A Christmas Carol'	SNPC
	16.00	VAMPS performance of 'A Christmas Carol'	SNPC

Services for next Sunday, 30th November (Advent Sunday):

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
6 p.m.	Service of Readings and Music for Advent	St Neots Parish Church

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 Canon Paul Hutchinson, The Rectory, Church Street, 01480 471297

Parish Office: Church Street, 01480 370312; office@stneots.org - www.stneots.org.

Weekly Sheet 20251123

Collect for Christ the King

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Collect

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.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures (first in service): Jeremiah 23.1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ²Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. ⁵The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Gospel Reading: Luke 23.33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?

⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' ⁴²Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' ⁴³He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

New Testament Reading (not used): Colossians 1.11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Post-Communion Prayer (also the Collect at offices during the week)

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Sonnet to begin a new Christian year

(the Prologue from Malcolm Guite's 'Sounding the Seasons', Canterbury Press, 2012)

Tangled in time, we go by hints and guesses,
Turning the wheel of each returning year.
But in the midst of failures and successes
We sometimes glimpse the love that casts out fear.
Sometimes the heart remembers its own reasons
And beats a 'Sanctus' as we sing our story,
Tracing the threads of grace, sounding the seasons
That lead at last through time to timeless glory.
From the first yearning for a Saviour's birth
To the full joy of knowing sins forgiven,
We start our journey on God's good earth
To catch an echo of the choirs of heaven.
I send these out, returning what was lent,
Turning to praise each 'moment's monument'.

Further Ahead

Saturday 29th – an Advent Workshop 12noon-3pm (bring a packed lunch) led by David Wells at Eynesbury Church: *informal; a chance to reflect about on the meaning of Advent and consider in more depth three of the readings from the 6pm Advent service the following day. Speak to David or text on 07511 916147*

30th November is Advent Sunday (the start of Year A in the Church Calendar), including the SNPC Service of Readings and Music for Advent at 6 p.m.
This is also the afternoon of the Christmas Lights switch-on, so there will be some restrictions on routes to SNPC for the evening service.

Mothers' Union Advent Service at SNPC – Tuesday 2nd December, 10.45 a.m.
As usual, we expect to welcome members of other MU branches to this.

There will be two funerals of former SNPC worshippers in the first week of Advent:

Ruth Parsons Thursday 4th, SNPC at 12 noon.

David Smith Friday 5th, SNPC 12 noon.

The Advent Communion that week will be:

Monday at 10.30 a.m. Henbrook House

Wednesday at 11 a.m. Poppyfields

Friday at 2.30 p.m. Old Vicarage

Christingle at SNPC – Sunday 14th December, 4 p.m. (workshop before, 2.30 p.m.)

Carols around the organ at Eynesbury Church – Thurs 18th December at 7.30 p.m.

School Christmas Services:

Priory Infants at SNPC: Thursday 4th December at 9.30 a.m.

St Mary's at SNPC: Wednesday 17th December at 10.30 a.m.

Eynesbury: Thursday 18th December at 2 p.m.

Diamond Learning P'ship: SNPC, Friday 19th December at 10.30 a.m.

Service of Lessons and Carols at SNPC – Sunday 21st December, 6 p.m.