**Notices**

**CHRISTMAS APPEALS**

**Firm Foundation** –Contributions can be cash in envelopes or by bank transfer. Envelopes are available in the pews.

**Angel Tree** .........if you wish to give a donation to Angel Tree there are blue envelopes on the table at the back of the church which can be put in the Wall Box or in the collection.

**OUR CAROL SERVICE**will be at 7.00pm on **Saturday, 16th December**. As in previous years it will be by candlelight, include many favourite carols for all to sing and followed by seasonal light refreshments. Do come - and bring others too. It's a great way of entering into the Christmas season and introducing others to the Gospel message.

If you live in the parish please take an A4 poster from the back of the church to put in your window to alert passers by of our Carol Service and encourage them to come.

**CAROLS AT WORMWOOD SCRUBS PRISON**  You are warmly invited to attend the Carol Service in the Prison Chapel on **Wednesday 20th December** at **6pm**. Please let me know if you are interested to attend. You support would be most appreciated by the prisoners *Keith Nicholls 07769 738 495*

**CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE VICARAGE**  Join us for Wine, Cheese and nibbles to celebrate Christmas on **Thursday 21st December** from **7pm**. Everyone welcome We look forward to seeing you. *Lyndon and Barbara*

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES** Do join us over Christmas at our special services.

**Christmas Eve 10.00 am Parish Communion**

 **5.00 pm Crib Service and Christingle**

 **11.30 pm Midnight Mass**

**Christmas Day 10.00 am Family Christmas Service**

**USED STAMPS** are wanted for St Luke's Hospice. Don't bother with ordinary UK ones as the anti-fraud ovals renders them useless, but any foreign and UK commemorative (including Christmas ones) stamps can be sold to stamp dealers and raise funds for this vital local charity. Just cut them neatly (with a small margin of of paper) from their envelopes and put them into the tin on the table by the door into the foyer. Thanks.  *Robert Crowhurst*

1. St Andrew's Church bank details for one-off payments and gifts –
2. **PCC of St Andrew's Roxbourne Parish**
3. **Sort code: 40-11-58  Acc No: 20404810**
4. *Please note this is not the account for regular Stewardship Giving - please see Wendy Godwin or Peter Sage for those details (Tel: 07889 249500*

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, ROXBOURNE**

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| *STAR LOGO 4* | **89 Malvern Avenue Harrow HA2 9ER.****020 8422 3633 www.standrewsroxbourne.org.uk****Registered Charity No. 1131727** |  |

***Star Link***

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| **SUNDAY, 10th DECEMBER 2023**  ADVENT 2  |
|  |  Roxbournestandrews |
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| **8.00 am: Holy Communion** **10.00 am: Parish Communion** **with Prayers for Healing***and* **Children’s Church***Please come to the Hall after the Service for Coffee, Tea & Fellowship* |
| **This Week’s Services** |  | **Next Sunday** 17TH December |
| **Monday – Friday**9.00 am Morning Prayer [cw]**Wednesday**: 9.30am Holy Communion |  | **8.00 am:** Holy Communion**10.00 am: Parish Communion***Isaiah 61: 1-4 & 8-11; I Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8 & 19-28* |
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TODAY’S 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. Amen**

TODAY’S READINGS

***Isaiah 40: 1-11***

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!”See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.He tends his flock like a shepherd:  He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

***II Peter 3: 8-15a***

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly livesas you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord’s patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

***Mark 1: 1-8***

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight”’,John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you withthe Holy Spirit.’

**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.**

 **Amen**

**PRAYER DIARY**

 **We remember with thanksgiving the anniversaries of:** Alan Wren; Linda J Hart (12th); Alfred F Shadbolt (14th).

 **Prayer request for healing and other needs**: Remington Alleyne;Christine Aubrey;Ralph Bedford; Eve Doyle; Jean Murch; John Nickolay; John and Josie Spinks; Angela Zadurian; Baby Nathaniel.

 **Happy Birthday to****:** Emily Bidder (12th); John Chamberlain (16th).

 **The Parish:** **Our fellow Harrow churches:** Alexander Avenue; Berriton Road; Bodmin Close; Brookside Close; Cannon Lane; Capthorne Avenue; Carlisle Close; Drake Court; Drake Road.

 **Church Families:** Kulan and Chris Mills; Roger and Gill Moore; Elfreda Morris; John, Christina and Jean Murch; Georgina Muxlow.

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**

God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

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