PEW SHEET

Sunday 4th December : Second Sunday of Advent

Coming Up….

4th Dec	**Sunday**		
	10.00 am	Family Communion	St Giles
	6.00 pm	Advent Carol Service	St Giles
6th Dec	Tuesday		
	10.00 am	Coffee & Prayer Time	Online
	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union	St Giles' Community Hall
7th Dec	Wednesday		
	10.00 am	Walk & Talk (Weather Permitting)	Meet outside St Giles
	7.00 pm	Encounter	Online
8th Dec	Thursday		
	10.00 am	Holy Communion	St Giles
	2-4 pm	Drop In Café	St Giles' Community Hall
9th Dec	Friday		
	7.30 pm	Youth Group	St Giles' Community Hall
10th Dec	Saturday		
	9.00 am	Men's Breakfast	St Giles' Community Hall
	10.00 am - 12 noon	Christmas Coffee Morning/Fair	Barnby
11th Dec	**Sunday**		
	10.00 am	Family Communion	St Giles
	10.00 am	Family Communion	Barnby
	1.00 pm	Baptism	Barnby
	3.00 pm	Christingle	Coddington

Sunday 18th December @ 4.00 pm
St Giles' Community Hall
We are so excited to invite you to this year's **POP UP NATIVITY**. Do come along, bring your family and friends, and let's celebrate together.

Christmas Service Posters and Fliers
are now available. Please help us to spread the word around the village by taking fliers and distributing wherever you can.

Thank you so much x

www.bbc-churches.org.uk

The BBC Group of Churches

St Giles, Balderton, All Saints, Barnby in the Willows & All Saints, Coddington

DECEMBER'S LETTER FROM THE MINISTRY TEAM
comes to us from Revd Louise Holliday.

"Are you hanging up a stocking on your wall?
It's the time that every Santa has a ball"

It hardly seems possible that a whole year has passed since we heard Noddy Holder's dulcet tones heralding the season and yet here we are again, Advent is upon us.

My birthday is October 1st and over the years I have grown used to seeing Christmas cards, decorations and selection boxes on display in the shops as I celebrate my birthday, but I was shocked this year when I visited a garden centre on 30th September and discovered that Santa would be available for visits from October 1st!! I must confess I was rather dismayed – a visit to Santa almost three months before Christmas Day! It seems Christmas comes earlier each year and perhaps this year, as in the last couple of years, people feel the need for a little Christmas cheer sooner rather than later.

But now the season is well and truly upon us. It's a busy time of year with the planning and preparation, the round of parties and gatherings, the shopping, wrapping and hiding of presents away from prying eyes.

There can be a strange kind of comfort in the familiar elements of the season. The sights and smells of Christmas lights and candles and the well-known hits from Slade, Wham and Bing Crosby can all help us to get in the mood. We can feel that we know where we are with Christmas. We have our family traditions that are observed year after year and even if they frustrate us, they are ours and we know them.

We can lose sight of ourselves during this time of year though, and the expectation to be in good spirits and have fun can be an added pressure we could do without. For many the season will bring with it an added financial burden that will be hard to bear, especially this year.

Maybe this has been a difficult year for you with challenges that have had to be faced. Perhaps you have coped with redundancy, illness or bereavement and are wondering how you will cope with the season of good cheer when you feel you have very little to be cheerful about.

Well Advent marks the beginning of the Church's year and is a season of preparation and reflection as we look forward to remembering what Christmas is really all about, God's gift to us of himself in the form of Jesus, Emmanuel, which means God with us.

It is a season that invites us to stop for a moment or two and consider what life is all about.

And in the busyness and bustle of this time of year it can help to remind ourselves that God chose to come among us in the form of a baby, born in the humblest of surroundings, a stable. In the simplicity of his arrival, without fanfare and commotion, he shows us what is of real importance not just at this time of year but all year round. Not expensive presents, not the most up to date games and gadgets but relationship.

The baby whose birth we celebrate on Christmas day grew to be a man who demonstrated his deep love for humankind by being with people from all walks of life, bringing healing and restoration. As we move through Advent towards Christmas day we also look beyond to the cross and Easter day when the risen Lord appeared to his closest friends and sent them in to the world to proclaim his peace.

However you celebrate the season I pray that you will have a joyful and peaceful time, that you will join us at our services across the benefice as we thank God for Christmas and even in the midst of the busyness of shopping and preparation you would find a moment or two to be still and discover afresh God's love for you.

God bless, Revd Louise

WARM SPACES IN BALDERTON

All three churches in Balderton welcome you to a safe space to come and keep warm and make friends this winter.

We offer warm spaces at least three times a week.
There will be hot drinks, biscuits, cake and someone to talk to.
Some days there may be activities as well.

Every **Monday** at the Methodist Church Light lunch followed by fun and friendship	**9am – 3pm**
Every **Wednesday** at the Methodist Church **Bubble Group;** chat and a drink	**2pm – 3.30pm**
Every **Thursday** at St Giles Community Hall **Drop in Café**	**2pm - 4pm**
Every **Friday** at the Salvation Army Mead Way	**10am – 12noon**
On the **Second Tuesday** of the month we offer the **Crafty Cuppa** at St Giles Community Hall . If you have a craft bring it along, otherwise just come for warmth and friendship.	**2pm – 4pm**

Donations are welcome but not necessary

Readings for Sunday 4th December—Second Sunday of Advent

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 God.

Isaiah 11. 1-10
A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. [2] The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.[3] His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; [4] but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

[5] Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins. [6] The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.
[7] The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

[8] The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.[9] They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.
[10] On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Matthew 3. 1-12
While Jesus was living in the Galilean hills, John, called "the Baptizer," was preaching in the desert country of Judea. His message was simple and austere, like his desert surroundings: "Change your life. God's kingdom is here."

[3] John and his message were authorized by Isaiah's prophecy: Thunder in the desert!

Prepare for God's arrival!
Make the road smooth and straight!
[4-6] John dressed in a camel-hair habit tied at the waist by a leather strap. He lived on a diet of locusts and wild field honey. People poured out of Jerusalem, Judea, and the Jordanian countryside to hear and see him in action. There at the Jordan River those who came to confess their sins were baptized into a changed life.

[7-10] When John realized that a lot of Pharisees and Sadducees were showing up for a baptismal experience because it was becoming the popular thing to do, he exploded: "Brood of snakes! What do you think you're doing slithering down here to the river? Do you think a little water on your snakeskins is going to make any difference? It's your life that must change, not your skin! And don't think you can pull rank by claiming Abraham as father. Being a descendant of Abraham is neither here nor there. Descendants of Abraham are a dime a dozen. What counts is your life. Is it green and flourishing? Because if it's deadwood, it goes on the fire.

[11-12] "I'm baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. The real action comes next: The main character in this drama—compared to him I'm a mere stagehand—will ignite the kingdom life within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He's going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He'll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he'll put out with the trash to be burned."

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**

Christingle Tickets for St Giles on Christmas Eve are now available via Eventbrite. Check out our poster for the relevant links.

You can make a donation to the Children's Society via St Giles' Christingle page here:

https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/christingle/st-giles-church-balderton

The Christingle Service at All Saints, Coddington, on Sunday 11th December at 3.00 pm will not be ticketed this year. Please invite your family and friends and come along as we celebrate together.

SAVE THE CHILDREN

QUIZ SHEETS
These are now available, at £1. Test your knowledge on TV Quiz shows and Panel Games.

CHRISTMAS CARDS
Thank you to everyone who has already purchased some cards. Please contact Alison if you would like any.

More details from
Jean Newson 01636 673970
Alison Wilson 01636 673298

THANK YOU
Quiz Night - Thank you to everyone who supported the quiz night. £360 was raised for Save the Children.

JOINT GROUPS PARTY

The Joint Groups Party due to be held on Wednesday 7th December has had to be cancelled. However, Men's Group members and their partners along with Wednesday Group members and their partners are invited to join Wednesday Group on 14th December at 7.30pm. Please advise your group leaders if you intend attending. Please bring nibbles to share. Drinks will be provided.

CAN YOU HELP?

We are keen to restart our children's provision during the services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month and are looking for volunteers to join the team. **Can you help? If so, please get in touch with Rev Lou on 01636 704811**

NEW HOME GROUP STARTING IN THE NEW YEAR

"The Bible Course" by The Bible Society

An eight-session course helping you explore the BIG story.

Big, complex, old … just some of the words people use to describe the Bible. Sound familiar? That's where The Bible Course comes in. The course will increase your confidence, equip you to read the Bible better and help you to see its relevance to daily life. The course provides a birds-eye view of the world's bestselling book.

Watch this space for more information.

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www.bbc-churches.org.uk

HOW TO BOOK OUR COMMUNITY HALL FOR AN EVENT

Please contact the Community Hall Booking Secretary Deborah Pollard on 01636 672923 for more details, a booking form and conditions of hire. For more information see the notice board inside the Hall.