



# Holy Trinity St Mary's

**Dear Friends,**

*Associate Minister, Ben Cahill-Nicholls writes:*

**Advent: a time of bustle and busyness, that gives way to delicious delight.**

Leslie Bricusse, who died recently, was a hugely talented composer and lyricist. Although his 1967 film of *Doctor Dolittle* was a box-office flop, its songs are witty, charming, and beautifully constructed. At one point, its heroine Emma Fairfax sings a ballad called 'Waiting'. The music shifts in tone – with broad, lush chords giving way to frantic, escalating quavers – as she travels through a range of emotions: impatience, frustration, excitement, hope, fear, confusion.

Emma is waiting not for Christmas, but for Dr Dolittle to realize he loves her. But the song's lyrics, with their repeated call 'waiting! waiting!', make me think of Advent. At its heart, Advent is a period of waiting, and with all the range of emotion that any period of anticipation brings. We know what's just around the corner: the promise not just of presents and music and food, but of the birth of Our Lord, and all that means for our faith and our world. That can make us impatient (yes, adults too) and frustrated, but excited and hopeful as well. And, because Christmas can be a challenging time of year for many, we may experience fear and confusion too.

How are we to handle these clashing concerns? Firstly, the joy of Advent is precisely the joy of knowing what is to come – of focusing on the end-goal. If our hearts and minds remain fixed on Jesus Christ, on everything that he offers and everything that he does and everything that he is, the period of waiting suddenly has purpose, intent, and energy. Secondly, of course, we can enjoy the space and time that a waiting-room provides. To use a simple example: There was a time when I used to hate sitting outside the dentist's door, preparing once again to be told that I'm not very good at brushing, and with only out-of-date magazines for company. As my life has become busier, and the world around me noisier, I have come to cherish those times: an opportunity for silence, for stillness, for reflection, for respite. Advent can offer those, if we allow it to. It can be a time of careful preparation, of prayerful calm.

Christmas can be a tough time for a lot of people, and the weeks leading up to it will bring tests and turbulence. There's one more thing, though, that this time has in common with Emma Fairfax as she sat on that remote beach, combing her hair after the storm. That thing is love. Whatever Christmas and Advent mean for us all, they are, at their heart, a time of love – the time, moreover, that love came to us in our own form and likeness and, in doing so, showed us how to love. And so, amidst the bustle and busyness of Advent, amongst the range of emotions it will bring, perhaps we can focus ourselves on that: on the love which, more than anything else, is what the birth of Jesus Christ is truly about. How delicious, how delightful, how divine, that we get to wait for that!

**– Ben**

## Rector's footnotes

### A new Methodist minister at St Mary's

From the Circuit Leadership Team: "We are delighted to announce that, following a successful visit to the Wey Valley Circuit earlier this month, Rev Dr Paul Glass has accepted our invitation to take up the role of Superintendent minister commencing September 2022. Paul will have pastoral charge of Cranleigh and Guildford St Mary's churches plus the Surrey University Chaplaincy. We look forward to welcoming Paul and his wife Janet to the Circuit." Rev Keith Beckingham remains in post until next summer.



### Warm and safe

Seasonal weather is upon us. We will be keeping you warm, by closing the doors during worship. We will be keeping you safe, by ventilating the churches before and after worship. I am sure you will play your part in caring for yourself and others, by wrapping up warm, wearing masks at times, and singing lustily in the great Advent and Christmas hymns!

### Seeing each other's faces

At 11am on Sunday, I will be hosting a Zoom conversation so that those who are worshipping at home can see each other's faces, and catch up on news. Open to all, join in from wherever you are by clicking this link.

### Thin places

In this season, we can become more aware of "thin places" where the space between earth and heaven is narrowed, each becoming more aware of the other. Peter Wilkinson has written this poem about the closeness of heaven.

#### ***The Celtic Saints by Peter Wilkinson***

*Across the Irish Sea they came in waves,  
Riding foam-tipped crests of wind-whipped seas,  
Blown by the westerlies to rugged shores;  
Each voyage against the ocean's restless surge  
A miracle on millstone, currach, coracle  
Making landfall on the coast of Pembrokeshire.*

*Clinging to vertiginous cliff-edges  
They built their tiny chapel sanctuaries  
Each stone a mark of gratitude  
For safe deliverance from the tempest's roar;  
And from Saint Bride's Bay's sheltering arms  
Their fiery faith ignited Celtic Wales.*

*We also need our sheltered, secret spaces,  
Clinging to the edge of storm-wracked worlds;  
Wild seas the one side, wilderness the other:  
Abode of monsters, giants and demon hordes.  
In these thin places, heaven is held close  
And fire ignited to enflame the world.*

### **What's On at Holy Trinity & St Mary's**

We delight in the wide variety of services, [activities and events](#) that take place in Holy Trinity, St Mary's and the Trinity Centre. No need to strain your eyes, you can click on the 'What's On' image below left to see a full size version each month.

[CONTACT US](#) for more information.

**n(ight) vision**  
... 'looking at life through a different lens'

**Friday 26 November**  
20.30 until around 23.00

We'll be offering the usual mix of a friendly welcome, space to reflect, chat, music and refreshments, in the spiritual atmosphere of a candlelit St. Mary's

Do drop in

**FROM CHAOS...  
TO CHRISTMAS...  
and beyond**



**SAVE THE DATES!**  
A series of  
**Advent Reflections**  
followed by  
a bread & soup lunch  
**Thursdays**  
**2, 9, & 16 December**  
12.15 for 12.30  
St Mary's, Guildford GU1 3UP

**View the stunning Christmas pathway**  
Walk from Chaos through Creation and the Nativity,  
to the ultimate promise of being with God.

**Trinity Club • Tuesday 30 November**  
**10.30am - 12 noon • St Mary's Church**

**Hugh Marriage: How crime prevention is impossible, but crime reduction is easy**

The next meeting of the Trinity Club will be on Tuesday 30th November when we welcome Hugh Marriage to our second meeting of the year in St Mary's Church. As Hugh writes, "Most people have concerns about crime and that it just seems to get worse. But Hugh aims to show us that, even if crime can't be reduced to zero, there is lots which can and should be done to reduce it - as happened when he was the South East's Home Office Regional Director. Part of the problem is that every new initiative or invention creates a new crime, and always has done." The meeting will begin at 10.30am to give people time to arrive, collect a cup of coffee, before Hugh begins his talk at 10.45. This will be followed by a lively discussion and will finish at 12 noon. It would be good to see members of the St Mary's congregation as well. It is a whole Parish event. – David Uzzell



**Hear Here at Saturday coffee**

Hear Here clinics continue in Holy Trinity Saturday December 4th during Saturday coffee, 10am - 12 noon and will run every fortnight on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. Future dates: December 18th, January 8th & 22nd, February 5th & 19th. Please come and see us for new batteries and for troubleshooting hearing aid problems and bring your NHS brown book with you. We look forward to seeing you again. – *The Hear Here team*



**Advent Reflections • St Mary's Church**  
**Saturday 4 December • 4pm**

Join Coro42 for 30 minutes of beautiful music and poetry reflecting on the hopeful anticipation of Advent.

Featuring music by James MacMillan, Sarah Quartel, Imogen Holst and more.  
Directed by Nick Graham.



**Pop-up Christingle Café • St Mary's Church**  
**Saturday 11 December 10.30am - 12noon**

St Mary's will be offering this for the first time, with something for all ages to enjoy. Please come along and encourage family, friends and neighbours to drop in for this festive new event for all ages.



**The Children's Trust • Christmas Concert**  
**Tuesday 14 December • 7.30pm • Holy Trinity**

The Children's Trust annual Christmas Concert is back at Holy Trinity, Guildford on Tuesday 14th December from 7:30-9:30pm. Hosted by broadcaster and journalist Nicholas Owen, performers include 'The London Soprano', Stage Debut Awards winner Sam Thomas and St Catherine's School. Tickets are £20 for adults, £10 for children. To book and for more info [please get in touch](#).



**Sunday Worship • 28 November 2021 • Advent 1**

**8am St Mary's BCP Holy Communion • Led by Robert Cotton** [At St Mary's & on Zoom](#)

**10am Sung Eucharist • Sermon by Robert Cotton**  
[At Holy Trinity & on YouTube](#)

Readings: Jeremiah 33.14-16, Luke 21.25-36

**10:30am Morning Worship • Sermon by Lyn McKay**  
[At St Mary's](#)

Readings: Jeremiah 33.14-16, 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13, Luke 21.25-36

**6pm Advent Carols • Sermon by Jonathan Hedgecock**  
[At Holy Trinity & on YouTube](#)

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**Midweek Holy Communion • Wednesdays • 12 noon • St Mary's**  
[except for the 2nd Wednesday of the month](#)

*Please make sure we have your current contact details.*

Contact us by [email](#) or phone:

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