



Dear Friends,

The hedgerows look bare. They have lost their leaves. All signs of life seem to have gone. Yet, if you look more closely, there are sloes, berries and nuts – sometimes they seem almost to be hiding. But they are freely provided, on offer, readily available for those who are attentive. Likewise with Advent: the grey clouds hang low, the rain is cold – but here is plentiful provision to nourish you through this season.

Spiritual resources for Advent

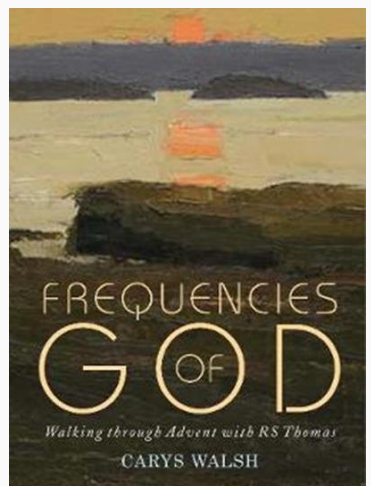
Lighting the first Advent Candle is the theme of the most recent [Pause to Pray](#). More videos to follow, week by week.



If you like to have something to read or to gently ponder each day during Advent, Jonathan would like to share two suggestions: Advent Online offers a [library of resources](#) and also a clickable [Advent Calendar](#) which provides visual and audio meditations as well as reflections on biblical passages for every day in the season.

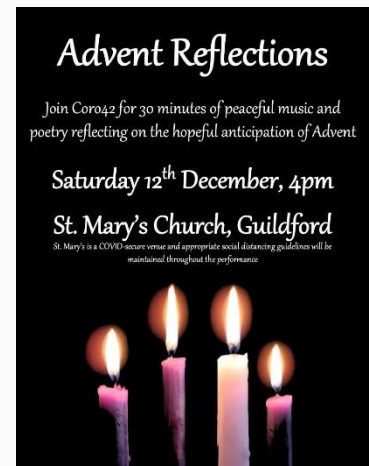


An anthology of poems by R.S. Thomas, with a poem accompanied by a reflection for each day. The book is called “Frequencies of God” by Carys Walsh, and if you are a poetry lover or would just like to explore the way Thomas draws the reader into the mystery of God through the daily waiting of Advent, this is for you.



We hope you will find inspiration from these or your own reading this Advent, and do feel free to [contact any of the clergy team](#) if you would like to share your thoughts as you reflect in this great time of preparation and waiting.

On Saturday 12th December at 4pm in St. Mary's, the choir Coro42, conducted by Nick Graham, will give a 30-minute reflection on Advent through a selection of carols and poetry. Following COVID-secure guidelines throughout, the choir will sing a short selection of Advent carols, including beautiful settings by Howells, Chilcott, and Sally Beamish, as a moment of peace and solace in this unusual December. Take a moment's break from Coronavirus, and from the busy high street, and join the choir in celebrating the hopeful anticipation of Advent. Seating is limited to 40 people. Please [let the office know](#) if you are planning to attend.



Nourishment for the body too

On Sunday 6th and 13th you can bring donations for for the North Guildford Food Bank to Holy Trinity. Items donated this Sunday can include tinned meat, tinned fruit and tinned veg and long life puddings. Household cleaners, toilet roll and toiletries also appreciated.



On Sunday 13th December there will be a '**Christmas Special**' collection and this is the opportunity to focus on Christmassy treats as well - chocolates, mincepies etc and special toiletries, cards and similar 'gift' items; anything that will bring sparkle and delight to mark the season. Let's make both collections as **BIG and GENEROUS** as we can - the more the better! If you'd like to contribute a gift but are not able to attend in person please [contact Mara Uzzell](#).

In this week's [Sources of Hope](#), two videos explore how local communities, churches, Scouts and supermarkets all contribute to the work done by the [North Guildford Food Bank](#) and the [Salvation Army](#).

Supporting Kwasa College, South Africa



We heard in the summer about Kwasa's difficulties and the big hole in the budget due to Covid-19. Now there is some good news. Increased sponsorships have meant that we in the UK are now able to cover the fees of 34 more children, so now 87 of Sharron's 240 primary school students are supported in this way. Donations have helped plug budget holes and the situation going into next year thankfully looks rather healthier. On the Kwasa site, work has been able to progress on the 'white building', once inhabited by 220 squatters and since dilapidated, gradually transforming it into a usable hall and offices. Donations to Kwasa can be made via the [West Green Trust's 'Just Giving' Page](#). You can also sponsor a child through this Covid-19 year. Email [Rich Benton](#) at [The West Green Charitable Trust](#) for more details.

Church alive!

In Holy Trinity, Lanesborough and Guildford High Junior School have been recording their

carol services and Hennessey-Brown Music has recorded a concert performed by the London Piano Trio. This will be repeated on Sunday afternoon with a live audience.

At St Mary's the Children's Trust and the Royal Grammar School (*pictured above right, photo by Simon TC Jones*) recorded music for their carol service. Coming soon: Emmaus Road Church and Real Change charity will both be recording their carol services at St Mary's. It is wonderful to be able to welcome all these people back to our churches, providing them with the space for Christmas to come alive again.



Furlough

At the request of the Bishop of Guildford, Tom Pote has agreed to be placed on furlough for one day each week (Saturday). This is part of a package of cost-cutting measures that the diocese is implementing. Please help Tom, by not contacting him on that day.

*** Service times revised as of 3rd December ***

Please disregard last week's listings

Christmas Services 2020 at Holy Trinity & St Mary's

4th Sunday of Advent • 20 December

Festival of Readings & Carols • St Mary's • 3.30pm

Festival of Readings & Carols • Holy Trinity • 5pm

Festival of Readings & Carols • Holy Trinity • 6pm

Christmas Eve • Thursday 24 December

Crib service • Holy Trinity • 4pm

Christmas Communion • Holy Trinity • 6pm

Christmas Communion • St Mary's • 9pm

Midnight Communion • Holy Trinity • 10pm

Christmas Day • Friday 25 December

Holy Communion • St Mary's • 8am

Festival Service • Holy Trinity • 10am

Christmas Communion • Holy Trinity • 11am

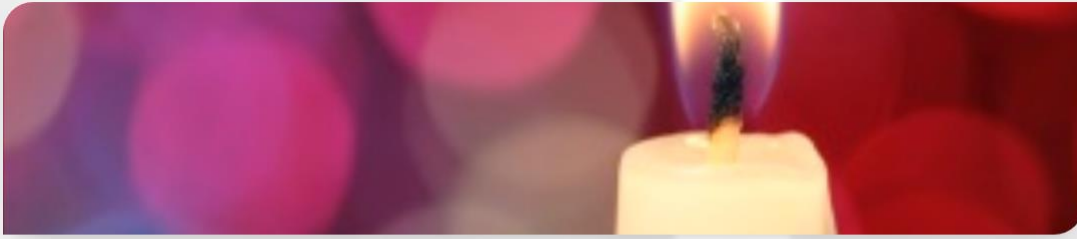
Christmas Service • St Mary's • 10.30am (Zoom)

Epiphany • Sunday 3rd January

Epiphany Eucharist • Holy Trinity • 10am

Epiphany Communion • St Mary's • 10.30am

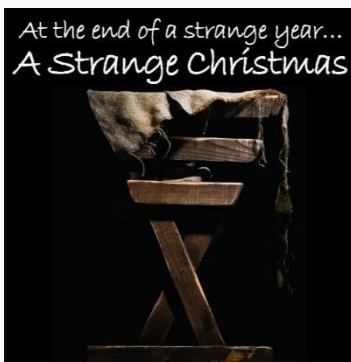
Compline • Holy Trinity • 6pm



Advent 2020 by Tony Earnshaw

It's advent and we're waiting.
We've been waiting since March
but now we're lighting candles.
One for the hope we feel,
tentative, hard to handle.
One for the love we've shared,
often at a distance.
Virtual hugs to show we care,
heart shapes, blown kisses.
One for the joy we long to feel,
for vaccinated liberation,
an anticipation of freedom.
And one for peace of mind,
a cause for celebration.
The fifth candle, the Christmas candle,
this year represents the light
at the end of the tunnel.
Maybe it always did.

- Robert



Strange year, strange Christmas...

Common Ground's series of 15-minute Advent reflections continues **Thursday 10 December:** Strange Worship - Andrew Wheeler at **12.30 by Zoom.**

[Click here](#) to request log-in details. Rosemary Lee will finish the series on **17 December** with the theme, Strange Welcome.



Wood for Good

Peter Brayne's remaining woodturning items will be available on Sunday after the 10am and 6pm services.

Card, cheque or cash accepted. All profits will go to HTSM. Items can be [viewed and ordered online.](#)

Worship in the parish for the second week of Advent

- Holy Trinity 10am – Brian preaches on Isaiah 40.3-8 and Mark 1.1-8
- St. Mary's 10.30am – Robert leads Advent Communion and Keith Beckingham preaches on same readings as above
- Holy Trinity 6pm – Advent Carol Service, sung by Girls and Adults

Wednesday 9th December: Holy Communion in St Mary's at 12pm – safe, quiet, especially for those who may not wish to come to a Sunday service with a large congregation.

[Click here](#) for the full schedule of What's On in the parish.

Links to services, morning prayer and service sheets: 4th - 10th Dec

Sunday 8am Holy Communion

SERVICE SHEET

Sunday 10am Holy Trinity service - ZOOM

SERVICE SHEET

Sunday 10am HT service - LIVE on YouTube

SERVICE SHEET

Sunday 10:30am St Mary's Worship

SERVICE SHEET

Sunday 6pm Advent Carol Service at HT

SERVICE SHEET

Weekday 8:30am Morning Prayer

WEEKDAY PRAYER

Sat 9:30am Morning Prayer on Zoom

SATURDAY PRAYER

Download Zoom links and call-in details

HTSM VIDEOS

If there is news that we should know please pass it on:

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Rev Tom Pote curate@holytrinityguildford.org.uk 01483 511725

Parish Office office@holytrinityguildford.org.uk 01483 567716

Please make sure we have up to date contact details for you.