

WHAT'S ON?

In the Parish of Upper Deal & Great Mongeham

St Leonard's St Martin's St Nicholas' St Richard's



The Second Sunday of Advent

10th December 2023

St Leonard's 8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Service moved to St Richard's due to boiler problem.	St Martin's 11.00am Holy Communion	St Nicholas' 9.30am All Age Informal Family Worship	St Richard's 10.00am Holy Communion (moved from St Leonard's)
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MIDWEEK PARISH COMMUNION Tuesdays, 12 noon, at St Leonard's Church after the Coffee Morning. All welcome.

This week's music...

St Leonard's

31 Come, thou long-expected Jesus
 27 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
 396 Lord of lords and King eternal (t 263ii)
 Anthem Psalm 121
 268 Hail, true Body, born of Mary
 28 Lo, he comes with clouds descending

St Martin's

St Martin's

535 Come, o come, Emanuel
 280 Hail to the Lord anointed
 766. Thou didst leave thy throne
 140. Come thou long expected
 Jesus

St Nicholas'

50 Be still for the presence of the Lord
 249 How lovely on the mountains
 162 From heaven you came
 486 Now thank we all our God

The Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
 and come among us,
 and with great might succour us;
 that whereas, through our sins and wickedness
 we are grievously hindered
 in running the race that is set before us,
 your bountiful grace and mercy
 may speedily help and deliver us;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
 to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
 be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

PRINCIPAL READINGS: First reading: Isaiah 40. 1-11

40 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² 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.

³ A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶ 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.

⁷ The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

⁹ 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!”

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.

Psalm 85. 8 – end

⁸ I will listen to what God the LORD says;
he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—
but let them not turn to folly.

⁹ Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰ Love and faithfulness meet together;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

¹¹ Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,
and righteousness looks down from heaven.

¹² The LORD will indeed give what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest.

¹³ Righteousness goes before him
and prepares the way for his steps.

Second reading: 2 Peter 3. 8-15a

⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹² as 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. ¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. ¹⁵ 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.

Gospel: Mark 1. 1-8

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, **2** as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way"—

3 "a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.'"

4 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. **6** John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. **8** I baptise you with water, but he will baptize you with the 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.**

COMMUNITY PRAYERS This week, we pray for our advent course. We pray that people will want to come, regulars and enquirers, and experience fellowship with others and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

BAPTISMS Please remember in your prayers all thirteen of our baptismal families this year. Pray for the Godparents, families and friends as they travel along in their new Christian lives.

INTERCESSIONS Please refer any pastoral concerns for members of the congregation or the local community to any member of the Pastoral and Ministry teams.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED ESPECIALLY FOR: Michael Chambers, David Flewker, Peter Hambrook, Noel Thompson, Joan Finney, Peter Brennon, Adrian Morley, Wendy Turner, James Burke & family, Lynda Borley, Lynne Farbrace, Ruth Doughty, Jim & Elizabeth McConnell, Caroline Richards, baby Amelia & her family, Steve Kerly, Steve Milne and Jacob Alger. Also, Father George & all those in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED including Tracy Ann Leslie. Lord, hold them in your arms, bless and care for them. We ask that you also give peace and comfort to their families and friends and keep them in your loving strength as they come to terms with their loss.

SAVE THE DATE

HOLY COMMUNION St Leonard's 10am Service on the 10th December will be at St Richard's at 10am due to the boiler failure.

WARM SPACE/UKRAINE HUB is every Monday except 25th December and 1st January. Refreshments provided for all – donations welcome.

ADVENT COURSE Come and be a 'Detective of Divinity'. Four Wednesdays starting 29th November, St Nicholas' 7pm with refreshments. Please see the Compass for more details.

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH – No lunch on the 7th December (the Christmas event was held on the 30th Nov). The first one of the New Year will be on the 4th January 2024.

COFFEE MORNING FUNDRAISERS will begin again on February 6th and will be in aid of a repair fund for the Social Centre. Suggestions for charities to support during the rest of 2024 to Sue HC please.

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR REGULAR EVENTS

Warm Space/Ukraine Hub, St Richard's: Mondays 9.00 – 1pm

Children's Service, St Richard's: Generally 3rd Sunday, 10.30 – see What's On? for details.

Coffee Morning, St Leonard's Centre: Tuesdays 9.30am – 11.30am

Dwelling in the Word Group, The Manions': Alternate Fridays

English for Ukrainians, St Richard's: Weekly, Thurs, not the first. 10-1pm

Friendship lunch, St Richard's, Mthly, first Thurs, 12 noon

Froglets, St Richard's: Term time, weekly, Fridays, 10-12 noon

Knit Knacks, St Leonard's Centre: Mthly, first Tuesday 2-4pm

Memory Support Café, St Richard's: Mthly, second and last Tuesdays 4-6pm

Men's Breakfast, Sir Norman Wisdom: Mthly, first Sat., 8.30am

Mother's Union Holy Communion, St Leonard's: Mthly, 1st Thurs, 10am
Mother's Union Meetings St Leonard's Centre, second Tues., 2.30pm
Sunday School, St Martin's: Weekly, 11.00am
UDGM Youth Club (COZ) St Richard's: 2nd and 4th Sundays 3-5pm
UDGM Prayer Group, St Martin's: Monthly, second Saturday, 10.00am

**PROPOSED CAROL SINGING DATES - LOCAL CARE HOMES
PLEASE JOIN US AND HELP TO BRING A BIT OF CHRISTMAS CHEER!**

St Winifred's - 27 November at 2.30pm
Sholden Hall - 5 December at 2.30pm
Brook Lodge - 7 December at 2.30pm
Caesar court - 20th December 6pm



Next Week's Services – 17th December

<p><u>St Leonard's</u> Sunday 8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am All Age Family Informal Worship 4pm A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols</p>	<p><u>St Martin's</u> Sunday 11.00am All Age Family Informal Worship</p>	<p><u>St Nicholas'</u> Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion</p>	<p><u>St Richard's</u> Sunday 10.30am Next service 17th December Children's Service</p>
<p>Tuesday 9.30-9.55 Morning Prayer 12 noon Holy Communion</p>	<p>Wednesday 9.30-9.55 Morning Prayer</p>	<p>Thursday 9.30 -9.55 Morning Prayer</p>	<p>Monday 9.30 -9.55 Morning Prayer</p>

NOTICES

SAFEGUARDING Any safeguarding concerns should be raised immediately with our Safeguarding Officer, Mandy Forrest 01304 372521 or 07999 910197.

SAFETY WARNING The balcony at St Leonard's is **OUT OF BOUNDS**, please speak to a church warden if you think you need to go up there.

ST LEONARD'S BOILER is not working. Please keep an ear to the ground in case services are moved to St Richard's like this week.

NEW REPS NEEDED The Parish is in need of new 'reps' - **Christian Aid** and **Parish Website Administrator**. Training given. If anyone from our parish is interested in these jobs, please see to Rev Monica or Wendy M. Thank you.

JANUARY FUNDRAISING CONCERT The concert in January is on Saturday 20th from 2pm to 4pm, tickets: 18's and over £5, under 18's free. Acts confirmed Landmark Show Choir, Porch Swing Blues, Daisy Rootz folk band and St Leonard's choir. More details to follow re ticket sales etc.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES if you are interested in these classes, please speak to Rev Monica or email the office. Thanks.

CHRISTMAS DRESSING UP CLOTHES NEEDED. Please see Julie Chambers if you can help with anything suitable for a nativity – we would like to have some ready in each church.


WHAT'S ON, COMPASS & CHURCH EMAILS if you would like to receive an online version of this newsletter please contact Wendy at the office on stleonardsoffice@btinternet.com. Contributions to same address please.

CHURCH BANK DETAILS: If you would like to pay offerings, tithes and pledges electronically, the details you need to know are below. We would also be delighted if you would be happy to complete the Gift Aid forms so that your monetary gifts would benefit from tax relief.

Account Name: Upper Deal and Gt. Mongeham PCC

Sort Code: 40-19-10 **Account Number:** 31141228

(If you would like to give by cheque, please make it payable to Upper Deal & Gt Mongeham PCC)

 **ANOTHER WAY TO HELP...** To help us with our work and the upkeep of our buildings please use this QR code to easily give the amount of your choice. The link is managed by PayPal but you do not need an account of your own. Easy and safe.

CONTACT DETAILS Revd Mthr Monica Cameron 07938 360395
(revmonicacameron@gmail.com)

Baptism, Wedding and Office enquiries: Wendy Manion
01304 369919 (stleonardsoffice@btinternet.com)

Office hours Tuesday – Thursday 9-12noon

Children and Youth Work enquiries:

udgm.kids@gmail.com

Visit our website: <https://upperdealandgtmongehamparish.com>

HALL HIRE St Leonard's Social Centre – Opal Crocker,
opalcrocker123@gmail.com – **St Richard's Church Hall** –
stleonardsoffice@btinternet.com



PASTORAL VISITING TEAM Any pastoral concerns, please contact one of the following; Rev Monica, Rev Lynn Overington, Rev. Patrick Kavanagh, Rev Peter Hambrook, Rev Deacon Pat Wright, Steve Goodsell

SACRISTANS Carol McCaughan, Julie Chambers, Karen Fairclough, Karen McCarthy, Sue Cooke

The passage we will be thinking about for a while when we 'Dwell in the Word' together as a Parish. Mark 13. 24-37

²⁴ “But in those days, following that distress,

“the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light;

²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

²⁶ “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸ “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵ “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

Loving God,

Though our destination is not yet clear, may we trust in Your graceful promises; Though we are uncertain of ourselves, may we be rooted in Your loving regard, Though our attention is inclined to wander, may we hear the things You are saying; Though we often neglect Your influence, may we be convicted of Your power to change,
In Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**