

CONTACTS AT ST. ELIZABETH'S OVER THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

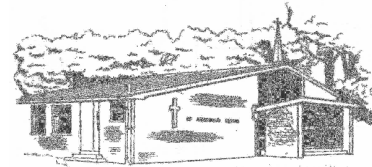
Team Clergy: Stephen Fletcher Michael Behrend
Terry Litherland Anthony Greenhill
Peter Harley Martyn Day

General Church Matters: Andrew Threadgold Gill Smart

General Pastoral Care: Jean Garner

Services Co-ordinator: Peter Harley

Verger & Church Bookings: Margaret Hannis



St. Elizabeth's Church Horwich



A PARTNER CHURCH IN THE HORWICH & RIVINGTON TEAM
COMMITTED TO THE SAVING GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

Christmas Edition
2009



Preparing our Hearts and asking for Grace

On this last Sunday of Advent, we reflect on the mystery and we look in awe, in wonder, at how our God entered our world and came to be with us. We pause to receive the gift offered us: that the Spirit of God will open up our lives and that Jesus will really come into our hearts. May we have watchful hope today, believing what the Lord promises us. Let us pray today, that we might be God's servants, that we might be instruments of God's love for our families and all we serve this week. Let us pray, as Advent draws to a close for the faith that opens our lives to the spirit of God. *Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

PLEASE PRAY FOR...THE RECENTLY BEREAVED: especially all those remembering anniversaries at this time ...**THE ELDERLY & HOUSEBOUND:** Alice Carter, Annie Dale, Don Williams, Amy Harvey, Ivy Weaver, Jane Miller. ...**THE SICK OF ST. ELIZABETH'S:** David Croston, Jacqueline Cunningham, Doris Nicholls, Joan Kearsley, Vera Miller, Iris Thompson, Margaret Kay. ...**THE SICK OF THE PARISH & BEYOND:** Emma (*Peter & Jean's granddaughter, recovering after op.*), Elizabeth Stokes (*friend of Jill Harley*), Brenda Craston, Hayley Thompson (*Aubrey & Iris' granddaughter*), Tracie Porter (*Sheila's daughter-in-law*), Barbara & Gordon Saul (*best friends of the Watsons*), Vivien Dickinson (*Doreen Dennett's daughter*), Donna McLoughlin (*Margaret's daughter*), Jane Boyce & family (*following a house fire - family & pets ok*).

Please pray too for families and friends anxious about their loved ones.... and for all those for whom Christmas is not a happy & joyful occasion.

Please pray especially for Paul, Jackie, Abraham, Reuben and Joel, as they celebrate Christmas in Southampton and plan to move to Horwich around 30th December. Paul's Licensing is on Monday 11th January 2010.

**WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
& A PEACEFUL & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**

A black and white illustration of a large, five-pointed star at the top, with several smaller stars scattered around it. Below the stars is the text:

*Are you part
of the inn crowd*



or the stable few?

SERVICES & DIARY



TODAY - Advent 4

10.00

HOLY COMMUNION

Leader: Peter Speaker: Anthony

Readings

Micah 5:2-5a (p.933)

Luke 1:39-45 (p.1026)

16.00

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

(followed by Mulled Wine & Mince Pies)

Leader & Speaker: Martyn

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00

FAMILY COMMUNION

Leader & Speaker : Anthony

Reading

Luke 2: 1-14 (p.1027)

27th December - Christmas 1

10.00

SERVICE of the WORD

Leader & Speaker: Dave

Readings

Colossians 3:12-17 (p.1184)

Luke 2:41-52 (p.1029)

THIS WEEK

Monday 21st

10.30 Greenbank Communion

14.00 Meditation (St. Cath's)

Tuesday 22nd

19.30 Eden Bus

19.30 Prayer meeting (St. Cath's)

Wednesday 23rd

10.00 NO Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS EVE

16.00

CANDLELIGHT CRIB SERVICE

23.30

MIDNIGHT COMMUNION

Leader & Speaker: Terry

Reading

John 1 : 1-14 (p.1063)

Monday 28th

14.00 Meditation (Holy Trinity)

Tuesday 29th

19.30 Eden Bus

19.30 Prayer meeting (St. Cath's)

Wednesday 30th

10.00 NO Holy Communion

19.30 Treasure Chest Leaders Mtg

Friday JANUARY 1st 2010

10.00 New Year Holy Communion
at Holy Trinity

3rd January 2010

10.00

HOLY COMMUNION

NEWS AND NOTICES

THE LITTLE RED BUS

As announced in Church on Sunday our little red bus has gone missing. We use it to collect money for the Eden Bus Project and leave it at the back of Church. It may just have been misplaced. If you have seen it please let the wardens know.

'AMAZING CONCEPTIONS' HANGING

The new hanging at the front of church for the Christmas season, by Honor Day, depicts the meeting between Mary and Elizabeth when they both simultaneously experienced the miraculous hand of God upon their lives. In the top right corner of the hanging are the words of Luke 1 v 45, "Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said will be accomplished." The piece is made by free-painting on silk and the imagery has been printed on top.

MEDITATION GROUPS

The Monday Group will meet at St Catherine's on 21st Dec and then move to Holy Trinity from 28th Dec until further notice. Thursday group will NOT meet on 24th or 31st Dec but restart on 7th Jan at St Elizabeth's. Everyone welcome at either or both groups. For more information please contact Shirley Turton, 01204 697430, Shirley@the-turtons.me.uk or Fliss Shaw, 01204 696851 rev.fshaw@tesco.net

ANNUAL COVENANT SERVICE

On Sunday 3rd January at 6.30 pm, we are invited to the joint Covenant Service at St John's. This is a time to renew our commitment to Christ and His Church. The new Horwich Methodist minister, Rev Graham Smith will preach and Rev David Griffiths will preside.

PAUL'S LICENSING

Our Church is only small and space will be at a premium for the licensing of Paul. To keep track of numbers for catering and seating we are issuing tickets for the service. Please fill in the sheet at the back of church or see the wardens to ensure you get a ticket. They will be given on a first come, first served basis so sign up soon if you want to come.

NEW MUSICAL FUTURE

Are you interested in being involved in the Worship Band (aka Music Group!) at St Elizabeth's? If you are, then Paul and Jackie would like to invite you to a light supper on Tuesday January 12th at 7 pm at the Vicarage, to discuss the way forward. Please give your names to Wendy or Jacqueline.

INTERNATIONAL FUN DAY

Please sign up to help with the Fun Day on Saturday 23 January 10.30-2.00 pm. There will be an international theme running through the games and also Lizzies Continental Cafe. If there is not enough helpers the event will have to be postponed until the Summer.

This is a 2 week notice sheet. Next issue will be on Sunday January 3rd 2010

A very warm welcome to all who visit St Elizabeth's over Christmas and New Year, especially if you are a visitor or here for the first time. Please take this notice sheet away with you and feel free to join us at any of our services.