



The Theydon Parishes

22nd November 2020

Sunday next before Advent



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

BENEFICE VISION

Core values: Faith, love and community.

We seek to live these value by welcoming all, caring and teaching so that we may change lives through sharing the love of God in Christ.

THEYDON BOIS ST MARY'S THEYDON GARNON ALL SAINTS STAPLEFORD TAWNEYST MARY'S THEYDON MOUNT ST MICHAEL'S

An online service is available on Sunday - it can be found on the Benefice website (www.theydonparishes.org/recorded-services), which this week is a special service, sung by St Mary's TB Choir, to mark St Cecilia's day (the patron saint of music).

Wednesday 10.00am Morning Prayer on Zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74592812873?pwd=Uk5YM2tmTm1FbWRnL01DVENmNksxdz09>

Meeting ID: 745 9281 2873 Passcode: 64de5M

Although the church buildings are closed, the church is not. Resources for prayer and worship can be found on the Benefice website; (to request paper copies please contact the Vicar) or by calling the free Daily Hope line provide by the national Church of England team on 08008048044 .

Sunday morning readings: Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24; Ephesians 1.15-end;
Matthew 25.31-end

Collect for the Sunday next before Advent (from the Book of Common Prayer)

Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord,
the wills of thy faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may of thee be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

THIS WEEK IN THE THEYDON PARISHES

Tuesday- Thursday		Morning and Evening Prayer - reflections posted on The Theydon Parishes Facebook page
Wednesday	10.00am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
	7.30pm	St Mary's TB PCC meeting on Zoom

CHRISTMAS SERVICES – A MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

The clergy and churchwardens are beginning to make plans for the Christmas services alongside the PCCs of each parish. Due to the continually changing situation, the service pattern for Christmas itself will not be confirmed until mid-December. All of those involved in the planning find themselves facing with everyone the continued uncertainty of these days, and there are options under discussion for small services in the church buildings, online services, and other creative ideas that in a normal year would never make it off the drawing board.

All of this uncertainty gives a new perspective on the Christmas story, and the season of preparation in Advent which begins next Sunday. The changes to “normal life” which our nation has experienced in 2020 have been unprecedented and looking back would have been unimaginable a year ago. The events of the first Christmas for those involved were similarly disrupting, and I expect Mary at least was unprepared a year ahead for what would come to pass.

She and Joseph were engaged to be married, they no doubt had their plans for what their lives would look like, until the angel Gabriel turned up and sent all their plans out the window. Then, just as they were getting used to the idea that they would have a baby, the emperor ordered a census so they had to set off away from home on the long journey to Bethlehem. Not what they had planned at all.

Or what about the shepherds, sat happily in their fields just doing their job until the angels appeared and sent them running into the village to find the newborn Jesus. And then there were the wise men, sent on a perilous journey to a far off land because of the appearance of a new star in the sky. None of these people could have predicted or planned what would happen to them, but when the disruption came they went with it and in doing so they met God face to face.

In the Theydon Parishes in common with so many others, we approach Christmas with our own sets of expectations and hopes, rituals and traditions, and after all we've been through this year it may feel heart breaking that it looks likely that we won't be able to celebrate in the ways that we usually do. But perhaps this strange and disrupted Christmas, gives us an opportunity to learn anew from Mary and Joseph, the wise men and the shepherds, and to allow the strange turn our lives have taken to lead us closer to the God who is always with us.

GENERAL NOTICES

PRIVATE PRAYER IN CHURCH BUILDINGS

Following the recent changes to the measures in law, all buildings of the Theydon Parishes are available for private prayer at the times below and for funeral services. .

St Mary's Theydon Bois	Sundays	2.00pm-3.00pm
	Thursdays	10.00am-12.00pm
All Saints Theydon Garnon	Tuesdays & Saturdays	10.00am-11.00am
St Mary's Stapleford Tawney	Wednesdays	10.00am-sunset
	1st & 3rd Sundays of the month	10.00am-sunset
St Michael's Theydon Mount	2nd & 4th Sundays of the month	10.00am-12.00pm

EVENING PRAYER DURING THE WEEK

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are calling us to pray during this second lockdown period, at 6.00pm daily. Resources to help do that wherever you are can be

found at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/call-prayer-nation>, and a short video for the day can be found on the "Thy Kingdom Come" YouTube channel.

ST MARY'S TB MISSION COMMITTEE – POSADA JOURNEY – 2020

The Mission Committee at St Mary's TB had hoped that this would be the year that we could reinstate the Christmas tradition of the Posada Journey. Unfortunately, due to the current circumstances, the Posada Journey will not be able to go ahead. The committee have worked together to think of ways that members of our parish and wider community could take part in the event and the outcome is a "virtual" Posada Journey. The event will take the form of a "treasure hunt" around Theydon Bois to locate clues that will provide an answer that relates to the Christmas Story. The treasure hunt will run throughout Advent, starting on 29th November. All completed entries are to be submitted (details to follow) and then on the final Sunday of Advent, 20th December, a winner will be selected, at random, from all correct entries. The winner will receive a Christmas hamper containing a selection of Fairtrade products including red and white wine, a St Mary's mini Christmas cake, a variety of different Fairtrade chocolate and other ethically sourced products! We do hope that you will join in the Posada Treasure Hunt if you can; fresh air and fun for children of all ages and a great way to remind ourselves that Christmas begins with Christ.

MINI CHRISTMAS CAKES ON SALE NOW

St Mary's TB Mission Committee have been baking mini Christmas cakes. They are the real thing, hand-baked with loads of fruit, marzipan and fondant icing, beautifully wrapped in cellophane and beribboned for gifting. They make ideal, affordable gifts. Just £5 per cake or £9 for two. Each cake has a label listing the ingredients. To order your mini Christmas cakes, please contact Robyn Marsh on 01992 813310 or email robynmarsh@pommies.plus.com, and we will arrange delivery at a time convenient to you. All profits from the cakes will be donated to charities and organisations supported by St Mary's TB, including the Manna Centre for the homeless, St Clare Hospice and The Box in Epping.

VIRTUAL NATIVITY DISPLAY ON FACEBOOK

Do you have a Nativity scene that you display at home during Advent and Christmas? Would you be willing to share it with others? As a way of sharing Christ's birth story we would like to compile a virtual Nativity display on our Benefice Facebook page in time for Christmas. To do this we need photos of your Nativity scene showing any or all of the characters in the story. You may want to just have Mary and Joseph and an empty manger, or with the Baby Jesus, shepherds, Wise Men etc. Your Nativity scene can be new, old, big, small, shop bought or homemade; the more variety the better. If you want to join in the fun please email your Nativity photo (landscape) to Rev Carol at associate@theydonparishes.org by 20th December.

SUNDAY SERVICES AT ST MARY'S ST & ST MICHAEL'S TM

At the most recent PCC for the parish of Stapleford Tawney with Theydon Mount it was agreed that the morning service whether held at St Mary's ST or St Michael's TM will in the future commence at 10.45am. This will take effect from whenever public worship resumes in our church buildings.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE OR RECEIVE HELP

Red Balloon Foundation in partnership with the Theydon Parishes and other statutory agencies are running a time limited project "Boxes of Hope" to provide free food and support for those families financially impacted due to the COVID outbreak. To access

support, please visit www.rbf.org.uk/efhope. Boxes are packed every Thursday morning in St Mary's TB Church Hall, and the team are looking for volunteers. Please visit <https://form.jotform.com/redballoonfamily/efbohvolunteeringapplication> or the Vicar for more information. The local food bank is still open and seeking donations of food and finances. Please see <https://eppingforest.foodbank.org.uk> to find out more. There is a box on the Vicarage step for donations which will be taken down to the collection point on a weekly basis. Our clergy team are able to make referrals to the foodbank for those in need of emergency food support.

GROUPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE


Until the end of the current restrictions, our groups for children and young people are not able to meet in person. To sign up for a Sunday online groups at 4.00pm, please visit <https://form.jotform.com/redballoonfamily/outreachreg> and select "Balloonstream".

NEXT SUNDAY'S MORNING READINGS

Isaiah 6.1-9; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-end

ITEMS FOR NEXT WEEK'S NOTICE SHEET

Send by 9.00am Tuesday to Sarah Bowen at notices@theydonparishes.org

CONTACTS	
Vicar	Rev John Fry The Vicarage, 2 Piercing Hill, Theydon Bois CM16 7JN 01992 812744, vicar@theydonparishes.org  @revjefry
Associate Priest	Rev Carol Newnham (Benefice days: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday) Theydon Garnon Vicarage, Fiddlers Hamlet, Epping CM16 7PQ, 01992 676818, associate@theydonparishes.org
Benefice Administrator	Sarah Bowen (Tuesday 9.00am-2.00pm, Wednesday 9.00am-12.30pm, Thursday 11.00am-2.00pm) 01992 814725 office@theydonparishes.org
Churchwardens	
Theydon Bois	Mary Gill: 01992 813253, mary200g@aol.com Michael Palmer: 01992 815034, mike_palmer17@btinternet.com
Theydon Garnon	John Chaplin: 01992 813942, charlie-chaps@hotmail.co.uk Hilary Mosley: 01992 814616, hilary.mosley@gmail.com
Theydon Mount	Jo Shephard: jo.shephard30@gmail.com
Stapleford Tawney	Margaret Dennis: margaretdennis@btinternet.com
Booking Enquiries	
St Mary's Church Hall	Ross Penman: 07939095545, rtpenman@me.com Eleanor Isaac: Eleanor.b.isaac@gmail.com (for regular bookings)
All Saints Gate-House	Kay Oakes-Ash: 01992 575828

www.theydonparishes.org