

St John's Johnstone & St Margaret's Renfrew

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany News

Welcome to this little newsletter to let you know about all that is happening over the seasonal period we are embarking upon. Please come along and join in as well as bring friends, neighbours and family members to enjoy the seasons too.

Advent Sunday – 30 November

usual Sunday morning worship 945am at St Johns and 1130am at St Margarets
4pm Christingle Event at St Margarets with the turning on of the Nativity lights followed by refreshments



This year St Margarets are raising money for the work of **Renfrewshire Womens' Aid** and Hannah MacLeod will be attending to speak about their work.



Nativity Lights sponsorship – as in previous years the sponsorship is £5 per day and will go to Womens' Aid. Please tell the Rector which days you wish to sponsor and your details will be added to the website.

The recoding of the **Church Times Advent Retreat** we enjoyed on Sat 22 Nov is now on our joint website for you to watch and enjoy if you missed it www.SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

The **Advent leaflets** are also available on the website so that you can say the **Advent Candle prayers** at home too with the candles you make. Do take a look!

Wednesdays will continue with 2pm Eucharist at St Johns and 7pm at St Margarets.

The set-up day for the **St Johns Christmas Tree Festival** is Thursday 11 Dec and Friday 12 Dec is the first day open to the public 11am to 1pm. This year's theme is "**Trees of Hope**" and will be officially opened with a 4pm Launch event of Carols and cakes around the trees. Bring people to see the spectacle and if you can enter a tree let the Rector know we need some more entries please.



The Christmas Trees will stay up until the **Closing Event on Sunday 28 December** when the prize for the best voted tree will be given out and we can all share photos and refreshments together – a lovely way to make the Christmas Season.

The **Christmas Tree Festival will be open to the public on Tues, Wed and Thurs** each week from the start to the finish – with some special days too.... Watch out for more details on the pew sheets.

St Margarets Ecumenical Carol Service is 7pm on Friday 12 December followed by refreshments. Please come along and support the carol singing.

List of Services for Christmas

Christmas Eve **3pm Crib Service** at St Johns for older and younger alike
 8pm Midnight Eucharist at St Margarets

Christmas Day **10am Christmas Day Eucharist** at St Johns
Sunday Dec 28 945am Eucharist at St Johns
 1130am Eucharist at St Margarets

4pm Closing of the Christmas Tree Festival with tea and cakes



Wed 31 Dec New Years Eve – no services

Sunday 4 January

Celebrating the Epiphany

945am Eucharist at St Johns

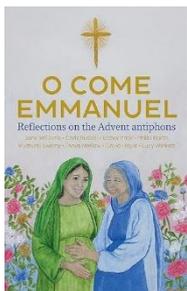
1130am Eucharist at St Margarets



Finally, Bishop Nick will be coming to St Johns on Sunday 11 January & St Margarets on Sunday 18 – watch out for more details as Bishop Nick wants to meet as many people as he can.



To close some good books you might like to read during Advent and Christmas.....



O Come Emmanuel: Reflections on the Advent Antiphons

£9.99 from Amazon

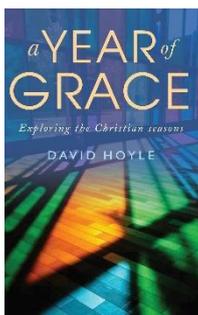
This beautifully illustrated, full-colour daily Advent companion explores the ancient biblical names and images for the coming Messiah familiar to most people from the hymn, 'O come, O come Emmanuel'. Well-known writers offer a total of twenty-four reflections, one for each weekday of the four weeks of Advent. The writers each offer three reflections on one of the seven antiphons: O Wisdom, O Adonai, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Morning Star, O King of the Nations, O Emmanuel. Lastly, there are three reflections on the Magnificat – Mary's Song – which the antiphons have been heard alongside since at least the eighth century.



Listening to the Music of the Soul: The Archbishop of York's Advent Book 2025

£10.49 from Amazon

'The quest for authenticity has been a hallmark of Guli's journey since she arrived in this country as a refugee forty years ago... She has an extraordinary ability to hear the music not only of the soul but of the future, and emboldens us to dance to it today.' Bp Robert Atwell



A Year of Grace: Exploring the Christian seasons

£11.98 from Amazon

Most of us think that theology is what you do if you haven't got a life. At best, we think it needs to be practical to be of any use. But theology is in fact all about life and how we live it as God's people. No matter how theology-phobic you feel, David Hoyle is here to help. Using the familiar pattern of the church year, he explores the core building blocks of Christian theology, and what each one means for how we live. He covers: - God as ruler and judge of all (Advent) - The incarnation (Christmas) - Forgiveness (Ash Wednesday) - Redemption (Good Friday) - Resurrection (Easter Day) - The Holy Spirit (Pentecost) - God as creator (Trinity) - The kingdom of heaven (All Saints) By working through the entire year, readers will explore all the core Christian beliefs found in the Apostle's Creed, making this an ideal guide for anyone wanting to better understand what they say in church.

I look forward to seeing you during the Seasons and wish you a very Joy-filled & Peaceful Christmas.

From Reuben – Rector

Very Revd Reuben Preston, 29 Gleniffer Road, Renfrew PA4 0RD
07971 895897 rector@SECStJohnStMargaret.org.uk

