

**A festival for December
St. Lucy of Syracuse, December 13th**

Lucy was a native of Syracuse in Sicily. She lived at the beginning of the fourth century, when the Roman authorities were attempting to re-establish the worship of gods they approved. The emperor himself was the focus of one of the cults. Tradition has it that Lucy, as a young Christian, gave away her goods to the poor and was betrayed to the authorities by her angry betrothed, who felt that they should have become his property. She was put to death for her faith in the year 304. Her name in Latin means Light and, as her feast-day fell in December, she became associated with the one true Light who was coming as the redeemer of the world.

God our Redeemer,
who gave light to the world that was in darkness
by the healing power of the Saviour's cross:
shed that light on us, we pray,
that with your martyr Lucy
we may, by the purity of our lives,
reflect the light of Christ
and, by the merits of his passion,
come to the light of everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

**St. Augustine of Canterbury,
Highgate**



CHURCH NEWS

December 2017

The Vicar's Letter

Dear friends,

I really like Advent calendars! I always have one. They really underscore for me the anticipation and excitement of the Advent season, and although we might be singing Christmas carols for a few weeks before we even get to Christmas, an Advent calendar can keep at least part of our minds in an attitude of waiting. Of course, most Advent calendars do not have a religious theme. Behind each door there might be chocolate and an image taken from the Christmas story. Yet more likely there will be some gift, but nothing to remind us of the birth of Jesus. Gin, yes. Toiletries, yes. Shower gel, yes. But Jesus? Oh no, not Jesus. So what can we do about this?

If you have an Advent calendar, however secular it might be, make the opening of each door a spiritual experience. Enjoy the chocolate, have fun, but remember Jesus each day. The Church of England is encouraging us particularly to think of Jesus as 'God with us' this Christmas. So when I open a door on my Advent calendar, I will simply pause and say 'God with us', and reflect for a moment what that means. In Jesus, above all, God is with us.

Have a good Advent, where daily you take a moment to reflect, and a splendid Christmas for 'God is with us.'

With my best wishes and prayers,
Fr. Peter

Church contacts

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*The following may be contacted through the church
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Emma Cardoso	Sunday School
Sergio Cardoso	Treasurer
Mary Maclean	Electoral Roll
John Morley	PCC Secretary
Toby Nangle	Gift Aid
Carol Noble	Rotas
Natalie Sodeau	Safeguarding
Richard Winder	Servers

**Enquiries with regard to baptism, weddings
and banns of marriage should be made to
Fr. Peter**

Looking ahead

January

1 Mass for New Year' Day at 12 noon
7 Epiphany of the Lord
28 Presentation of Christ in the Temple,
Candlemas

February

14 Ash Wednesday Mass at 10am and 7.30pm
18 Evening Prayer and Benediction at 6pm
19 Lent group at 8pm preceded by light supper
from 7.15pm
25 Evening Prayer and Benediction at 6pm
26 Lent group at 8pm preceded by light supper
from 7.15pm

March

4 Evening Prayer and Benediction at 6pm
5 Lent group at 8pm preceded by light supper
from 7.15pm
11 Evening Prayer and Benediction at 6pm
18 Evening Prayer and Benediction at 6pm
19 Lent group at 8pm preceded by light supper
from 7.15pm
25 Evening Prayer and Benediction at 6pm
26 Lent group at 8pm preceded by light supper
from 7.15pm

The Vicar's Notices

RECITAL

The recital by Evie Rogers raised £254 towards our boiler debt. A splendid evening!

#Godwithus

This is the Church of England's campaign for Christmas 2017. Each one of us can be involved if we have a mobile phone. Text **God-WithUs** to **88802**. You'll receive one SMS for each of thirteen reflections entitled 'Your Christmas Journey.'

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Please note the dates and times: Sunday December 17th at 3pm for Carol Service; Christmas Eve Crib Service at 4pm and Midnight Mass at 11.30pm; Christmas Day at 10am.

Calendar for December 2017

- 3 First Sunday of Advent
Parish Mass at 10am
- 6 Mass at 10am
- 9 Mass at 10am
- 10 Second Sunday of Advent
Parish Mass at 10am
- 13 Mass at 10am
- 16 Mass at 12 noon
- 17 Third Sunday of Advent
Parish Mass at 10am
Carol Service at 3pm
- 20 Mass at 10am
- 23 Mass at 12 noon
- 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Parish Mass at 10am
Crib Service at 4pm
Midnight Mass at 11.30pm
- 25 Christmas Day
Parish Mass at 10am
- 26 St. Stephen's Day Mass at 10am
- 27 St. John's Day Mass at 10am
- 28 Holy Innocents' Day Mass at 10am
- 30 Mass at 12 noon
- 31 First Sunday of Christmas
Parish Mass at 10am

Bible readings for the Parish Mass

- 3 First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64.1-9
1 Corinthians 1.3-9
Mark 13.24-37
- 10 Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 40.1-11
2 Peter 3.8-15a
Mark 1.1-18
- 17 Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11
1 Thessalonians 5.16-24
John 1.6-8, 19-28
- 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 Samuel 7, 1-11, 16
Romans 16.25-27
Luke 1.26-38
- 24 Midnight Mass
Isaiah 9.2-7
Titus 2.11-14
Luke 2.1-14
- 25 Christmas Day
Isaiah 52.7-10
Hebrews 1.1-14
John 1.1-14
- 31 First Sunday of Christmas
Isaiah 61.10-62.3
Galatians 4.4-7
Luke 2.15-21