

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is a duty of paramount importance for the Church, and from that within our parish. Since 2005 Sue Harkness has exercised this responsibility, and we owe her a debt of gratitude for all that she has done, over such a long time, in this important area. Brigid Brennan has now been appointed to take on this important role, and she will be introducing herself as the Masses this weekend. If anyone has questions, or concerns, about any safeguarding issues, Brigid can be contacted at harpendensg@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk, a mobile 'phone number will also be available shortly.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Thank you for your generosity last weekend, the Church will look beautiful for Christmas.



ADVENT GROUPS

Advent prayer in the Taize tradition on Monday 10th December at the Convent 18, Kirkdale Road from 2pm - 2.40pm. Special focus for prayer: Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Everyone welcome.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

In the midst of all that remains to be done for Christmas, one important preparation is celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, going to confession. We have the opportunity to do this as a parish on Wednesday 19th December at 7.30pm. Do think about making time to attend, and so using this important opportunity.



PLANNED GIVING OFFERTORY ENVELOPES RENEWAL

Please pop in to the Parish Office if you still need to collect your envelopes.



SVP CHARITY CHRISTMAS TREE

This year's charities are St Albans and Hertsmere Womens' Refuge and Open Door, St Albans. As in previous years, the tree is positioned outside the Repository and is decorated with tags listing items most needed by the two charities. If you would like to support these charities please take a tag and any items purchased can be left under the tree. We would like to deliver the items well before Christmas and therefore would ask that any items be placed under the tree by next weekend 15th/16th December. Please do not wrap as the charities will need to sort the items once received. Thank you.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MUSIC IN OUR PARISH SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER 6.00PM PARISH CAROL SERVICE

Our traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight is a wonderful way to start Christmas. It will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the undercroft. Come and join us for this popular service.



PARISH CHILDREN'S CAROL NATIVITY SERVICE

The service this year, called "The Night the Stars danced for Joy".

We need a few actors (i.e. Stars, Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds and the Kings). There are no speaking parts, the story is read and the children mime their parts. If you would like to take part, you would have to attend the one rehearsal on **Saturday 22nd December from 11.00am to 1.00pm**. Any child of school age is very welcome to join us. Please let Ginny (620322) know as soon as possible if your children will be taking part. We do hope lots of you will be able to come to our Carol Service as it is always such a lovely occasion at a very busy time.



 *livesimply*



A big 'thank you' to all the parishioners who contributed UHT milk last Sunday for the St Albans and District Food bank, presently situated at Highfield Oval. We had another bumper harvest! The next collection will be on Sunday 6 January (the first of the month). Thank you too to those who bought Fair Trade goods at the Christmas Fair, helping to provide a decent price for the growers. One more request, please. If, after Christmas, anyone has a bicycle surplus to requirements, in any condition, Syrian refugees in Hertfordshire would love to have them! Just contact any of the LiveSimply

group, or graham-ryan@sky.com (tell: 01582 876119). We will be delighted to collect them. Laudato Si.

ST CLARE'S CONVENT

3 Abigail Close Luton
Carols at the Crib will be on 15th December at 2pm. Everyone is welcome.



ADVENT RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS: Join the Assumption Sisters and Fathers for the full-day Advent retreat on **Saturday 15th December 2018**. The theme: "Master, what must we do?" will help us to prepare spiritually for the arrival of Christ. The day includes time for confession, spiritual accompaniment, talks, adoration, mass, faith sharing, prayer and activities. Venue: Milleret House, via 23 Kensington Square, London W8 5HN. Registration is essential - email us to book your place: youth@assumptionreligious.org Tel: 020 7361 4755. Cost: donations only, lunch is included.

TASTE OF BRAZIL ON 10th FEBRUARY:

You are warmly invited to this event led by Katie Metcalfe and friends. Start: 3pm. End (provisional): 5.30-6.00pm. Venue: St Dominic's. Cost: £5 a child or adult, £10 a family. For that there will be two workshops to A/ learn renowned South American songs, and B/ practice Brazilian drumming; a quiz; tasty, light Brazilian snacks - and a finale concert! Proceeds to a Brazilian charity for musical instruments for children in the Brazilian favelas, via our Developing World Group. Book by emailing Julia at juliaandnigel057@gmail.com. Please come.

