



Today's Services

8am HOLY COMMUNION

Leader and
Preacher: Philip Plyming
Genesis 49 p55

9.30am MORNING PRAISE

Leader: Philip Plyming
Preacher: Richard Rugg
Genesis 49 p55

11.15am HOLY COMMUNION

Leader: Mike Barton
Preacher: Richard Rugg
Genesis 49 p55

4pm 4 O'CLOCK CHURCH

Leaders: Philip Plyming and
Stephen Valter
Genesis 49 p55

6.30pm HOLY COMMUNION

Leader: Mike Barton
Preacher: Richard Rugg
Genesis 49 p55

Welcome to our services!

In this newsletter you can find all you need to know about what is happening here, what facilities are available and what else is going on at HTC. If you are new or would like further details about the church and what goes on then please pick up a 'Connect' card from the desk in the foyer and speak to one of those involved in leading the services.

Children's and Young People's Activities Today

During the **9.30am** service there is a crèche for under 3's in **Oak/ Olive in the Ministry Centre**. All children aged 3+ come into church for the beginning of the service before departing for their groups:

Scramblers	aged 3 in the Church Hall
Jumpers	ages 4 & 5 in the Church Hall
Climbers	Y1 & Y2 in the Village Hall
AGS Explorers	Y3 & Y4 in the Village Hall
Trekkers	Y5 & Y6 in Willow (Ministry Centre)
Pathfinders	Y7 - Y9 in in the Village Hall

During the **6.30pm service** Pathfinders (11-13) come to the beginning of the service and then go out to the Ministry Centre for teaching and games; and Youth Fellowship (14-18) attend the 6.30pm service, then hold fellowship and small groups after the service.

Recording of Sermons

Recordings of 9.30am sermons can be listened to online or downloaded from our website or CD copies can be ordered from the Church Office.

We have a hearing loop in the main church which runs down the columns. If you wear a hearing aid with a T setting and wish to take advantage of the hearing loop please sit inside the columns, avoiding the back 4 rows on the left.

Refreshments

Tea & Coffee will be served between the end of the 9.30am service and the start of the 11.15am service, and before the 6.30pm service. Squash is also available for the children. We would be delighted if you can stay and join us.

Bookstall

The Bookstall is open each Sunday after the 9.30am service and during weekday office hours for books and greetings cards.

Prayer Room

The Prayer Room is open during office hours Monday to Friday for personal prayer.

This week's prayers

Services

- Pray for those leading and preaching at our Sunday services: Philip Plyming, Richard Rugg, Mike Barton and Stephen Valter.
- Pray for the Christmas Connections meeting on Tuesday, for a special time of fun, fellowship and celebration of the good news of Christmas.
- Give thanks for the opening of the Advent Prayer room last week and pray for the individuals and groups that have used it and will do so over the Advent season.
- Give thanks for last week's Christmas events: Crafts & Carols which took place on Thursday night and the Christmas Lights on The Parade yesterday.
- Pray for the Barnardo's project in Tunbridge Wells which we are supporting today by the collection of toys (see p3 for more details).

Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent:

O Lord, raise up, we pray,
Your power and come
among us, and with great
might succour us; that
whereas, through our sins
and wickedness we are
grievously hindered in
running the race that is set
before us, Your bountiful
grace and mercy may
speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ Your
Son our Lord, to whom with
You and the Holy Spirit, be
honour and glory, now and
for ever. Amen.

Pastoral/Church Family

- Pray for members of the church family who are currently unwell and especially for: Barbara Adams, Beryl Bailey, Maureen Boddy, Mary Brows, Gillian Caporn, Mary Cripps, Katie Elmore, Yvette Fountaine, Kate Gifford, Mike Guest (in hospital), Wendy Howe, Laura James, Jen Marshall, Margaret Standish, Mollie Woodward and those going through any difficulty.
- Pray for all who are bereaved, and especially for the families and friends of Mark Sprackland and Colin Mays, and for the Hobart / Redman family following the death of Deborah's father.

Mission

- Pray for the Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) and give thanks for their work supporting churches and leaders across the country. Pray also for those locally who are currently on the Deanery Growing Leaders course at HTC, that God would be at work in their lives. Pray for their meeting tomorrow evening, for all the participants and for those who will be speaking on the topic of 'Developing Character'.

World

- Pray for local government councils seeking to identify accommodation for refugee families. May landlords, who are sympathetic to the many struggles refugees encounter when settling in, be forthcoming to help.
- Pray for the transition of power in America between President Barack Obama and President-elect Donald Trump. May the governance of this country, which has such influence in the world, be willing to listen carefully and act with wisdom and prudence.
- Pray for all those caught up in the ongoing conflict in Syria – particularly for those trapped and scared under the threat of bombing, and unable to escape. May God have mercy.

This week's notices

Toys for Barnardo's project in Tunbridge Wells

Please bring along unwrapped gifts (for ages 2 to 5) to any service today (or to the church office **by Mon 5 Dec**). Those attending at 9.30am will be invited to bring them up during the children's item. If attending other services, please leave them by the office door. Suggestions include simple books, curriculum based toys (numbers, counting, letters) and transport toys (cars, trains etc).

Advent Prayer Room

The Prayer Room has been transformed into a drop-in Advent prayer space, continuing until Fri 23 Dec. It is an opportunity to spiritually recharge during Advent and spend 5 or 50 mins engaging with God - all ages welcome! Even if you have already dropped in once, do come back - **the prayer activities are changing on a weekly basis**. The prayer room will be open during office hours, and occasional evenings - details to follow!

Faculty application for work to North Tower

As you may be aware, the clock tower is in need of some urgent repairs as a result of wet rot in some structural timbers. A number of minor repairs to the outside of the tower are also needed, together with a refurbishment of the clock face which is in a poor state of repair. The PCC has unanimously approved an application for a Faculty from the Church of England to allow us to carry out this work. A formal notice of this application can be viewed on the notice boards in the foyer and outside the main entrance. Further details of the proposed work are available for inspection in the Church Office.

Carols on The Green Sunday 11 December

Everyone is welcome to join us at 4pm on Sun 11 Dec for Carols on The Green, followed by mulled wine and mince pies! Come along for a short service led by Philip, and sing some carols accompanied by the Scout and Guide band.

Lunch for the 11.15am Congregation

On Sunday 11 Dec there will be a lunch for the 11.15am congregation, starting at 12.45pm in the church hall. Please sign up in the foyer - and why not invite a friend along to the service and lunch? Voluntary contributions towards the cost of the lunch can be made on the day. For more details contact Anna Lise Gordon 460273 gordonarrh@aol.com

Preparing for Christingles

If you are free on Fri 23 Dec please join us to help assemble 500+ Christingles! Come to the foyer from 9.30am onwards - YF members especially welcome!

There will be three Christingle services on Christmas Eve at 3pm, 4.15pm and 5.30pm - do come to whichever service suits you best. Children are welcome to come dressed up as a character from the Christmas story!

HTC Christmas card

If you can help deliver our Christmas card to everyone in Claygate, please collect a bundle or two from the foyer and deliver by Sat 11 Dec.

Children's groups' Christmas parties today

In their usual group time during the 9.30am service today, the children's groups will be having their Christmas parties! Please come dressed to party and bring a friend!

Dorcas Sale thank you

Thank you to all who supported the Dorcas sale last week. A record total of £374 was raised for the Ukraine medical fund.

Beer and Carols for men

Following the success of 'Beer & Carols' for men last year, we are running it again on Thurs 15 Dec from 7.45 to 10pm. The evening will include four half pints of craft beer, a hog roast and carols. Tickets £15 from the church office - do invite a friend!

Weekend retreat 2017

Linda Morgan will be running another weekend retreat at St Cuthmans from Fri 22-Sun 24 Sept 2017. To register interest in coming, please contact Katherine in the office as soon as possible.

Alpha Course - starts Thurs 19 Jan

Next term's Alpha Course begins with an Opening Supper on Thurs 19 January at 7.30pm in the Ministry Centre. Do invite a friend or neighbour to come along - invitations available on the welcome desk today! The main sessions of the course run from Thurs 26 Jan to Thurs 23 Mar (with a break for half term on Thurs 16 Feb).

This week's diary

Mon - Fri	8.45am	Daily Prayer in the Prayer Room
Tues 6 Dec	10am	Christmas Connections for Seniors in church
	2.30pm	Service of thanksgiving for Mark Sprackland in church
Wed 7 Dec	10 & 1	Toddlers' Praise in the Ministry Centre

Sunday 11 December

8am Holy Communion Leader: Linda Morgan Preacher: Mike Harle	9.30am All age & baptism Leaders: Emma Coy and Richard Rugg	11.15am Morning Praise Leader: Linda Morgan Preacher: Mike Harle	4pm <i>No 4 O'clock Church today but do join us for Carols on the Green at 4pm</i>	6.30pm Illuminate Carol Service Leader: Richard Rugg Preacher: Mike Barton
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Upcoming Events

	12.45pm	Lunch for the 11.15am congregation
Sun 11 Dec	4pm	Carols on The Green followed by mulled wine and mince pies
	6.30pm	Illuminate Carol Service - an 'alternative' carol service
Mon 12 Dec	8pm	PCC meet in Emmanuel Hall
Thurs 15 Dec	7.45pm	Beer & Carols for men - see over
Sun 18 Dec	6.30pm	Traditional Carol Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies
Christmas Eve	3, 4.15 & 5.30pm	Christingle Service – come to whichever suits you! Children are welcome to come dressed as a character from the Christmas story
	11.15pm	Holy Communion
Christmas Day	9am	Holy Communion with carols
	10.30am	All Age Service
Sun 1 Jan		Normal services at 8am, 9.30am and 11.15am No 4 O'clock Church or 6.30pm service today!
Wed 4 Jan	8pm	Small group leaders' meeting (repeated Sat 7 Jan)
Sat 7 Jan	10am	Small group leaders' meeting (repeat of Wed 4 Jan)
Sun 8 Jan		Vision Sunday