

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

10.00 Parish Eucharist [LB]

18.30 Evening Eucharist [S]

Monday 12<sup>th</sup>

09.00 Celtic Morning Prayer [St Andrew's Chapel, North Hill Little Baddow]

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>

09.15 Holy Communion [S]

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>

10.00 House Communion at Hayfield, Spring Elms Lane Kay Miller

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

10.00 Parish Eucharist [S]

10.00 Family Service followed by Mayoral Tree Planting [LB]

18.00 Carols and Christingles by Candlelight [LB]

19.30 Carols by Candlelight [S]

**\*PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO MAGAZINE ENTRY**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup>

09.00 Celtic Morning Prayer [St Andrew's Chapel, North Hill Little Baddow]

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>

20.00 Beer and Carols at 'The Crown' in Sandon

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>

09.15 Holy Communion [S]

20.00 Beer and Carols at 'The Rodney' in Little Baddow

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>

10.00 House Communion at Longwood Chase, The Ridge Margaret Martin

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>

CHRISTMAS EVE

16.00 Christingle and Crib Service [S]

16.00 Christmas Eve Meditation

[LB-URC]

23.30 'Midnight Mass' [LB]

23.30 'Midnight Mass' [S]

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>

CHRISTMAS DAY

08.00 Holy Communion [S]

10.00 Carols around the Crib [S]

10.00 Carols around the Crib [LB] followed by a said Holy Communion

JANUARY 2012

Sunday 1 NEW YEARS DAY

10.00 Parish Eucharist [S]

10.00 Morning Prayer [LB]



### What is a 'Posada'?

A Christmas festival originating in Latin America that dramatizes the search of Joseph and Mary for lodging. from Late Latin *pausare, to rest*, from Latin *pausa, pause*; People in Sandon have knitted figures of Mary, Joseph and all the nativity characters (including a small flock of sheep) and now they are making their way from home to home during Advent. On Christmas Eve they will, we hope, arrive intact at St Andrew's. We expect Jesus to be their on arrival.

### Prayers at St Mary's

*If you wish to ask for prayer, for yourself or a dear one, there is now a place to write a request. You will find a prayer table near the lectern and if you wish light a nightlight candle too.*



## Parish Churches of St. Andrew, Sandon and St Mary the Virgin, Little Baddow

*part of the Chelmer Crouch  
Group Ministry*

11<sup>th</sup> December 2011

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

On this third Sunday of Advent, we gather in hope and faith, preparing to celebrate the first coming of Christ at Christmas and in the age to come.

### A warm welcome is extended to all visitors.

*Coffee, tea and squash are normally served after the 10am Service [in Church at St Mary's Church and in The St Andrew's Room at St Andrew's Church].*

*Please stay and meet people.*

If you are here attending a 'Holy Communion' or 'Eucharist' and normally receive the Sacraments of bread and wine, you are welcome to receive them here too.

If you do not normally receive Communion you are very welcome to come and kneel at the Altar rail and receive a blessing (please carry a service book or hymn book with you) you will not be alone.

*For 5 minutes before the Service begins PLEASE allow others to keep a time of prayerful quiet in preparation to worship our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you.*

### Advent Wreath Prayer

Lord Jesus, Light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near: As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now.

### COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**First Reading** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

**God promises justice and joy, restoration and renewal; the good news has already brought salvation, for it is God's nature to fulfil the promise.**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup> to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
<sup>4</sup> They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup> For I the LORD love justice,

I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,

and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

**Second Reading** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Guided by the Spirit, let us rejoice and give thanks for the good news of Jesus Christ and trust in his return, for God keeps promises.**

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup> May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

**Gospel** John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Although John was not God's promised Messiah, his baptism of repentance prepared the way for Jesus; yet the religious establishment failed to recognise either of them.**

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for

those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' <sup>23</sup> He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said. <sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' <sup>26</sup> John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' <sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

**Post Communion prayer**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

**Pastoral Care Training**

Starts in January

*Details in the Parish Magazine*

**Please note**

The Revd Clive Ashley is away on leave over this weekend but will be back on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>