

**PRIMLEY CHURCH - DECEMBER 2023**

Please remember those of our congregation and those known to us personally who are unwell, bereaved or struggling.

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**WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY CHRISTMAS & ABOVE ALL A  
PEACEFUL 2024**

<b>ROTAS</b>					
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>
Elder	Roger	Maggie	Barbara	Richard	Roger
Door Stewards	Maureen	Chrissy	Sue	Alison	Barbara
<b>Communion - Jill &amp; Mary</b>					
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>PREACHERS</b>				
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rev Michael Diffey (1st Sunday in Advent)				
10 <sup>th</sup>	Richard Wainwright				
17 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Barbara Bennett - Carol Service +coffee & mince pies				
24 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Caroline Stott (Communion)				
31 <sup>st</sup>	Rev Caroline Stott				
Jan 7 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Barbara Bennett + Community Lunch				

Please contact Maggie for anything you wish to be announced each month: [maggieknights@hotmail.com](mailto:maggieknights@hotmail.com), 01395 597464 or 07980 581731

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

.....is a time for waiting and a moment of great joy and celebration. It is a season of expectation and preparation as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming of Christ. The Season of Advent as it first emerged in the Church in the fourth and fifth centuries, lasted, like Lent, for 40 days. Later tradition developed the Advent we know today, of four Sundays before Christmas Day.

### **The Advent Wreath**

The Advent wreath is usually a circle of greenery with five candles rising from it. There are four candles on the outside and the candle in the middle is white. The candles are lit in the same order each week so that by the fourth week, the candles have burnt down by different amounts.

### **Christingle**

The custom of Christingles comes from the Moravian church and since the latter part of the twentieth century it has become a part of how many churches mark the season.

#### **What the Christingle Means**

- \*The lit candle represents Jesus being light in the world
- \*The orange represents the world
- \*The red ribbon represents the blood of Christ
- \*The sweets represent all of God's creations

Christmas is one of the highlights of the Christian Year and a time for great celebration. We celebrate the mystery of God coming to live in the midst of humanity as one of us, in the person of Jesus, the Saviour promised by the prophets of the Old Testament.

Christmas marks the anniversary of Jesus' birth and has inspired the many joyful customs and traditions. Many of these - carols, cribs, decorations, and special foods - are shared with and enjoyed by millions of people across the world. But there is more than tinsel, trees and reindeer. There is amazement, wonder and joy here. The gospel accounts of the first Christmas provide so many ways for us to enter into the mystery of God becoming human. There are hosts of angels filling the night sky with singing; a group of astounded shepherds on a hillside who find their lives and expectations turned upside down; there is a shining star and the birth of a child, which, like many other births before and since, bring hope and possibility. At the centre of it is Jesus, someone who is joy and love, whatever situation you're in. When we meet Jesus Christ we find love, healing, hope and certainty and an underpinning of our lives that gives us a sense of where we're going and what we're called to be.

**Lord Jesus, Light of light, you have come among us.  
Help us who live by your light, to shine as lights in your world.  
Glory to God in the highest! Amen**