

# NEWSLETTER

Abinger | Coldharbour | Holmbury St Mary | Wotton

## Collect: 17 December Advent 3

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

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## Collect: 24 December Advent 4

Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the gift of the Christ-child, embrace the earth with your glory and be for us a living hope in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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## Posada Prayer

Dear Jesus  
We pray for all  
who are looking for shelter  
this Christmas.  
We pray for safe spaces  
for them to stay.  
Amen



## How to have a good Christmas.....

“One of the great treasures of the Christian world is the great heritage of Christmas songs and carols in the English language from the Middle Ages. Modern composers still want to set these beautiful and often surprising words. Some will have heard the carol beginning 'There is no rose of such virtue as is the Rose that bare Jesu' - which picks up the ancient tradition of describing Mary as the rose blossoming from the wintry earth of human history.

"But the important words come in the second verse: 'For in this Rose contained was Heaven and earth in little space'. Jesus in the womb of Mary is already the one 'in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily', in St Paul's wonderful words in Colossians.

“And here, in the 'little space' of Mary's body, divine fullness is alive; when Jesus is born, 'the fullness of him who fills all in all', to quote Paul again, is wrapped in cloths and tucked into a feeding trough. After the crucifixion, the fullness of God's life is locked away in the tomb. God's way with us is not to overwhelm us with majesty but to live his life 'in little space' and to speak there the quiet words that summon us to faith.

“Only when we are very quiet can we hear. Only when we stand still can we give him room. Faced with the fullness of God in the embryo, the baby, the tired wanderer in Galilee, the body on the cross, we have to look at ourselves hard, and ask what it is that makes us too massive and clumsy to go into the 'little space' where we meet God in Jesus Christ.

“It may be our wealth and security; it may be our ambition; it may be our images of ourselves as powerful or virtuous or godly. The world - and the Church - are still fairly full of people (like you and me) who walk around surrounded by inflated ideas and pictures of ourselves that crowd out others and push away God. We need at Christmas above all to remember what Christ says again and again - that there is no way in to his little space without shedding our great load of arrogant self-reliance, bluster, noisy fear and fantasy.

“And when we have set this aside, we find that it is only in the little space that there is room enough for all of us - forgiven, welcomed, made inheritors of the divine fullness of life and joy that God longs to share with us. Behind the low door of the stable is infinity - and more, an infinity of mercy and love. No straining our eyes to see a distant God; but a God whose fullness dwells in that space we are not small and simple enough to enter.”

+RW

## Church Services

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### 24TH DECEMBER

4pm	Holmbury	Christingle & Nativity
6pm	Coldharbour	Christingle
6pm	Wotton	Christingle
11.30pm	Abinger	Holy Communion
11.30pm	Holmbury	'Midnight Mass' and Carols

### ADVENT 4

### 25TH DECEMBER

10am	Coldharbour	Family Holy Communion
10am	Wotton	Holy Communion
10.30am	Holmbury	Carols and Communion (with children in mind)
11.15am	Abinger	Family Worship (followed by Communion)

### CHRISTMAS DAY

### 31ST DECEMBER

10am	Abinger	Morning Prayer (Leith Hill Benefice Service)
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### THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

### 7TH JANUARY

9.15am	Coldharbour	Holy Communion (said)
9.30am	Holmbury	Quiet Communion
10.30am	Abinger	Holy Communion with Sunday Club
10.30am	Holmbury	<b>Funday</b>
11.15am	Wotton	Mattins (BCP)

### THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY



## CHRISTINGLE FACTORIES

Come and join the fun!

<b>Holmbury St Mary</b>	Saturday 23rd Dec 10am
Church room	Real coffee and yummy mince pies
<b>Coldharbour</b>	Saturday 23rd Dec 2pm
In Church	Contact John Roberts

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### PCC NEWS : Holmbury St Mary PCC (Church Council)

At it's quarterly meeting at the end of October, the PCC met and agreed:

- to accept the quotations for repairs to the church building totalling £32,541 (+ VAT) and to schedule the works for early summer 2018.
- b. to adopt, for a trial period of six months, the use of Common Worship Morning Prayer at 9.30am on the third Sunday of each month from January 2018. Copies of the Order of Service, authorised by General Synod and commended for use by the House of Bishops, will be available on the table at the back of church for perusal.

The PCC noted with sadness the forthcoming closure of the Playgroup; welcomed the success of the Pilgrim Course in drawing people from across the Benefice; and commended Anne R for the attractive photo boards that are changed regularly to highlight church life and events.