



THE PARISHES OF  
**St OSWALD'S HOOE**  
and  
**St. MARY'S NINFIELD**

**WEEKLY SHEET ~ 17th Dec 2017**

[www.ninfield.org.uk](http://www.ninfield.org.uk)



*A warm welcome to everyone, especially any visitors.*

*If you are new to our Churches please introduce yourselves to the sides people on duty. If you need help in any way during your time in church please talk to one of the sides people.*

**Please note that both churches are installed with hearing loops to help those who wear a hearing aid with the T setting.**

### **SERVICES NEXT WEEK**

#### ***St. Mary's***

**Today** ~ 3.30pm - Carols and Christingle (with mulled wine and mince pies after the service)

**Wednesday** ~ 10.00am ~ Holy Communion

**Christmas Eve** ~ Sunday 9.30am ~ Said Eucharist  
6.00pm ~ First Christmas Eucharist

**Christmas Day** ~ 9.30am ~ Christmas Day Eucharist  
***St Oswald's***

**Wednesday** ~ 7.30pm ~ Christmas Carol Service  
with Hooe Village Band

**Christmas Eve** ~ Sunday 11.00am ~ Parish Eucharist

**Christmas Day** ~ 11.00am ~ Christmas Day Eucharist



# TODAY'S READINGS

## Third Sunday of Advent

### The 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 for ever. Amen.

### First Reading      *Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11*

The servant of the Lord said: <sup>1</sup> 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 wrong-doing; 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*

My brothers and sisters,<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, but test everything;<sup>21</sup> 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 Reading** *John 1.6-8,19-28*

<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.

## **Contacts:**

*Priest in Charge:* Rev Paul Frostick ☎ 01424 218126 / 07713243427

Email: paul.frostick@sky.com

*Churchwardens:* Hooe ~ Mr Rist ☎ 892576 Mr Pattisson ☎ 845087

Ninfield ~ Mr Ringrose ☎ 892792 Mrs Owen ☎ 225421

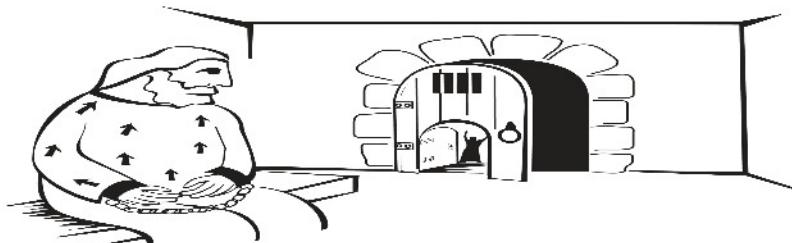
## **PRAYERS & INTENTIONS**

*Pray daily for peace and all those who suffer from illness especially*

Barry and Margaret West, Hope Green, Peter Green,  
Donna Morris, Nicki Rist, Jim Hoad, Justin Pierce,  
Aubrey Yull and Nathan Thompson.

This week we pray for residents of Moorland Close, Ninfield,  
Mill Lane, Hooe, and the Stoolball Club.

In our CTiB cycle of prayer we pray for  
Crowhurst Healing Centre and Steve Gendall



*He has sent me ... to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners.  
(Isaiah 61:1c)*

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### **Prayer of a New Guinea Christian**

At Advent we should try the key to our heart's door. It may have gathered rust. If so, this is the time to oil it, in order that the heart's door may open more easily when the Lord Jesus wants to enter at Christmas time!

Lord, oil the hinges of our hearts' doors that they may swing gently and easily to welcome your coming.

Any items for the Weekly Sheet to Sally Bobin [sallypod@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sallypod@hotmail.co.uk) and Sally Parry [sparrygb@gmail.com](mailto:sparrygb@gmail.com) By Wednesday 6pm please.