



ALL HALLOWS

A Church of the Rainbow People of God

1st December 2013

President and Preacher: Rev Steve Smith

Readings for to-day

Romans 13.11-14

Matthew 24.36-44

Prayer for the day

Christ our Advent hope, bare brown trees etched dark across a winter sky, leaves fallen, rustling, ground hard and cold, remind us to prepare for your coming; remind us to prepare for the time when the soles of your feet will touch the ground, when you will become one of us to be at one with us.

May we watch for the signs, listen for the messenger, wait for the good news to slip into our world, our lives. Christ our Advent hope, help us to clear the way for you; to clear the clutter from our minds, to sift the silt from our hearts, to move the boulders that prevent us meeting you.

Help us to make straight the highways, to unravel the deception that leads to war, to release those in captivity. May sorrow take flight, and your people sing a song of peace and hope be born again. Amen

From The Green Heart of the Snowdrop, by Kate McIlhagga, Wild Goose Publications -

God said: 'I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the bond between me and the earth.' And Desmond Tutu said, **'We are the Rainbow People of God.'**

Please pray for.....

- Those caught up in the helicopter disaster in Glasgow
- Rev David Randolph Horn recovering from surgery and his wife Betsy having tests
- Hazel, Ali Dunn's cousin, living with uncertainty of a heart condition
- Kerry applying for training as a Reader
- For Helen Cockerham, Kerry's partner diagnosed with epilepsy
- Iris and Sonja, retiring from the cafe at the end of November
- A Pakistani man who has converted to Christianity
- Jen Silvester and her parents Reg and Christa. Reg is in hospital recovering after multiple organ failure and needs a hip replacement. You may remember Jen as a former member of All Hallows'.
- Kay, in hospital again and contemplating yet more surgery. Pray for relief of the stress this causes, for endurance and that Kay will have peace in the knowledge that she is in God's hands constantly
- Jan's friend Heather with cancer and for her husband Harro
- Gabrielle Syme with inoperable cancer and husband Robert
- Lisa, learning to speak and walk after experiencing an aneurism
- Sameer – awaiting the outcome of his appeal hearing
- Linda's father Ron, taken into hospital with a fever, and mother Vida.

The community of Hyde Park....

- The Hartisca House staff and residents following news that the home is due to be closed.
- All who use our building during the week
- for all at Hyde Park Methodist Church; pray for our ministry together and for all who live in the area of Hyde Park.

For justice in the world....

- The Nicaraguan Community Movement in La Concha and for the Leeds Latin American Solidarity group as they appeal for regular donations to support of the work of the NCM. (See Sarah for more info)
- Palestinians living on the West Bank, Gaza and in Israel
- LGCM and Sharon, national worker, as she challenges churches to have an open welcome for Gay, Lesbian and transgender members
- PAFRAS, who due to funding cuts are having to reduce opening to Thursdays only, plus losing their communications officer and their news-sheet.

PRAYERS: If you have a request you want included in this bulletin email bulletin@allhallowsleeds.org.uk or let Steve know.

Reflection

Gratitude is not only the posture of praise but it is also the basic element of real belief in God.

When we bow our heads in gratitude, we acknowledge that the works of God are good. We recognize that we cannot, of ourselves, save ourselves. We proclaim that our existence and all its goods come not from our own devices but are part of the works of God. Gratitude is the alleluia to existence, the praise that thunders through the universe as tribute to the ongoing presence of God with us even now.

Thank you for the new day.

Thank you for this work.

Thank you for this family.

Thank you for our daily bread.

Thank you for this storm and the moisture it brings to a parched earth.

Thank you for the corrections that bring me to growth.

Thank you for the bank of crown vetch that brings colour to the hillside.

Thank you for pets that bind us to nature.

Thank you for the necessities that keep me aware of your bounty in my life.

Without doubt, unstinting gratitude saves us from the sense of self-sufficiency that leads to forgetfulness of God. Let us learn to come to prayer with an alleluia heart—"Praise to you, O God. Let all creation sing your praise."

Regular events: Sunday 10.30 Morning Service "Sharing the Feast of Life". Monday 6.30 Yoga, Tuesday 1-3 Delicious Bites Cookery Group £2 all welcome, OWLS lunches 12 (Bookable for older people) Friday (and/or Sat.) – Break dancing.

Friday 6th December 8pm Live@AllHallows: ChrisTT with support from Paul Morricone, of local band Scaramanga 6, doing a solo acoustic set. £6.50 in advance, £8 on the door.

Saturday 7th December meet at 11am outside the City Library, to protest against the Immigration Bill, which will amongst other things make it more difficult to appeal against asylum decisions. See Andrea for more info.

Sunday 8th December 12.30-4pm All welcome to AJAR (Asylum Justice and Release) team building and training event at All Hallows. Includes shared lunch, presentations from Manuel Bravo project, PAFRAS and discussion on AJAR from here. *AJAR works with those who have been detained or in fear of being detained, to help them be part of a just and fair process to seek asylum.*

Sunday 15th December 7.30pm, All Hallows'. Sacred Wing choir perform followed by Carols and readings. 100 years after the birth of Benjamin Britten we're featuring his popular *Ceremony of Carols*. The setting of the words brings out both their beauty and their meaning. The *Ceremony of Carols* takes a very dramatic approach and has a richness and depth. Admission free – collection for local charities.

Wednesday 18th December 1:30pm Christingle service with Rosebank Primary

Christmas Services - Midnight Mass 11.30pm Christmas Eve; Christmas Day Communion 10.30am (quiet, relaxed service !)

Ways to donate to All Hallows:

Give your time to help out on with activities – café, gardening, events, gigs, working parties to clear and clean and to help with the Sunday Service.

To give money to support us: please place money on the plate on the small table. You can also make a direct payment from your bank and you can gift aid. This is a way we get money off the government when we reclaim tax you have paid – ask James, Paul or Jan for details. NB we are also fundraising for our roof that leaks!

To support local people who are in need of a meal contribute food to the **PARISH PANTRY**: If you can remember to bring dried food or tins or toiletries to church so Steve can donate them to people who need extra help just put them in the red box at back of church There is loads of need in our local area.

CONTACT DETAILS If you want to contact the Vicar, Rev Steve Smith by telephone, ring 0113 242 2205

On line? See www.allhallowsleeds.org.uk