

Our prayers are also asked:

- for our parish and Cathedral Church that we might notice the joy and hope of Advent
- for peace and justice throughout the world especially at this time in the Holy Land and Ukraine
- for the COP28 environmental conference & our own response to the environment
- for those who are sick & all who have died

PARISH CONTACTS

Churchwardens

St Mary de Lode	Richard Lane	521670
St Mary de Crypt	Peter Gould	419840
St Swithun's	Nick Roberts	413105
Parish Safeguarding Officers	Mary Gould	419840
	Roxy Nicholls	507676
Parish Administrator	Claire Saunders	385070
	admin@swithunandmary.org.uk	

Ministry Team

Parish Clergy	Nikki Arthy	523808
	nikkiarthy@btinternet.com	
	Geoff Eales	
	geoffeales@aol.com	
	Pauline Godfrey	0777 228 0344
	pgodfrey@glosdioc.org.uk	

Pastoral Assistant &

Licensed Worship Leader	Mary Gould	419840
Pastoral Assistant	Cath Wain	521799
Children and Families Worker	Rachel Laughton	07999 481 451

www.swithunandmary.org.uk

The Parish of Hempsted with St Mary de Lode
and St Mary de Crypt, Gloucester
in partnership with Gloucester Cathedral



Advent Sunday
3rd December 2023

10.00am	Parish Eucharist	St Mary de Lode
Readings	Isaiah 64: 1-9; Mark 13: 24-37	
Preacher	Nikki Arthy	
3.30pm	Messy Church	Lysons Hall
6.00pm	Advent Carol Service	Cathedral

Morning Prayer via Zoom is on Wednesday and Friday at 9.00am.
Compline via Zoom is on Thursday at 9.00pm.

Prayers for the City take place in St Mary de Crypt Church each Friday at 1pm. **Coffee, Cake and Conversation** takes place 11am-12.30pm beforehand in the Old Crypt Schoolroom.



Services for Advent 2, 10th December 2023

Parish Eucharist	St Swithun's	10.00am
Steampunk Festival Eucharist	St Mary de Crypt	10.00am

Messy Church meets this Sunday, Advent Sunday, 3 December at 3.30pm in the Lysons Hall. We look forward to being together as we begin the journey to Bethlehem.

Prayers for Peace and Justice are offered 12noon-12.20 on the first Tuesday of each month, in person in the St John the Baptist Chapel in the Cathedral, and also online in real time using Zoom. You are warmly invited to join in. If you would like to join via Zoom please email Cathedral Reception to request the link: reception@gloucestercathedral.org.uk. On **Tuesday 5th December** prayers will focus on the Holy Land and other places of conflict; also on issues of human rights and responsibilities as Sunday 10th Dec. is the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The light shines in the darkness: a Taizé style service for Advent. Tuesday 5 December 7.30pm St Mary de Lode Church. All welcome.

On 7th December, at Discover DeCrypt, there will be a lecture on the Gloucester miser who served as Dickens' inspiration for Ebenezer Scrooge, following which drama students from The Crypt School will perform an excerpt from the classic Christmas story, **A Christmas Carol**. Tickets are £5 and can be purchased on the door or from the website: <https://www.stmarydecrypt.org/event-details/a-celebration-of-a-christmas-carol>

The Parish Bible Study Group meets next in Hempsted at the home of Sally and David Hebbs on Monday 11th December 11-12.30pm. Contact Pauline on pgodfrey@glosdioc.org.uk or 07772 280344

We are looking for volunteers to boost the singing at our **Community Carol Services**. Let **Claire** know if you would like to help out: **Redlands Care Home** on Weds 6th Dec at 3pm, **The Dean Neurological Unit** on Thurs 7th Dec at 11.30am.

Come and join us for some festive treats at the **Christmas Fair** on Saturday 9 December, Lysons Hall, 12noon-4pm. Local craft stalls, lucky dip, cakes and produce, guess the weight of the cake, name the teddy bear, raffle and seasonal refreshments. All money raised will support our three churches.

Do you have **financial skills** that you could offer to the parish? We are forming a finance committee and also looking for a new treasurer. Peter Gould has fulfilled this role for some time and steps down at the end of the year with our very grateful thanks. More info from Nikki.

St Swithun's Church is now open once again for worship. Thank you to Nick Roberts for project managing the work. The church will be repainted as part of the wider Eco Church project - new flooring and heating - which resumes next year.

Prayer for the Week

This Advent, we hope and pray for:

joy as we journey together, sight for the blind and healing for the sick, freedom for the prisoners and good news for the poor, release for the oppressed with justice for all and love for each other and the coming of God's topsy-turvy, inside out, upside-down Kingdom. Amen.