

Readings for this Sunday 19 December 2021

8am Holy Communion and
10am Holy Communion

Heb. 10. 5-10
Luke 1. 39-45 (46-55)

4pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Special readings

Readings for Christmas Eve 24 December

11.30pm Midnight Eucharist

Titus 3. 4-7 Luke 2. (1-7) 8-20

Readings for Christmas Day 25 December

8am Holy Communion and
10am Holy Communion

Heb. 1. 1-4 (5-12)
John 1. 1-14

No evening service

Readings for Sunday 26 December

9am Holy Communion

Col. 3. 12-17
Luke 2. 41-end

No evening service

Parish Register

21 December – Jean Woods St Hildeburgh's at 1.30pm
Landican Crematorium at 2.30pm

23 December – Pamela Julie Ault
Landican Crematorium Centre Chapel at 10am

Weekly Beacon



News from St Hildeburgh's The Parish Church of Hoylake The Fourth Sunday of Advent 19 December 2021

The Collect

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

VICAR'S TWO PENCE DECEMBER 2021



Who knows what Christmas will bring us? Who knows what Christmas will bring us in terms of Covid restrictions and I suppose all of us are a little bit concerned about this new variant that is spreading around the world.

That said, within the limits of what we are allowed the Church has certainly seen the return of some of our activities. A couple of weeks ago we held our first Messy Church in almost two years and what a joy it was to see the children pour into our church and what fun they had. A great thank you must go out to all our helpers who gave up their time to create such a happy space. Our Wednesday Mums and Tots group has returned and is increasing in numbers, and it is joy to see the children and adults enjoying their time together. I am reminded of the words from *James 1:2-4* "*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*"

I was also delighted to welcome the staff and children from Holy Trinity School back to Church for their Christmas Carol service. This year they did it twice morning and evening and what a joyous occasion this was to be part of, well done Holy Trinity school. Last week we will also held our Christmas lunch and what a great event it was for all. Although less numbers because of restrictions it still helped us to enjoy the company of each other.

There is no doubt that despite all that Covid has done it has not destroyed the spirit of the Church community. It is said when life is difficult people always give of their best and rise to any challenges before them. Scripture informs us in *1 Peter 5:7* *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

This is true of St Hildeburgh's as we start a new journey in the coming year. We have much work to do especially as we have, like all churches, lost income over the last few years but we will get through it - so far so good or so I thought! Until this new Covid variant appeared in the last few weeks forcing us to rethink some activities.

Sadly, we have decided to cancel the Christmas Eve nativity service as there would have been too many numbers to be safe. However we will continue with the Nine Lessons and Carols and other planned services which attract manageable numbers.

It is good to see the church come to life for Christmas. As the trees appear and the big tree is decorated it certainly gives me a feeling of optimism and expectation as we await the Christ child. The Old Testament book of *Joshua 1:9* "*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*"

Please do hold in your prayers those who will struggle this Christmas because of loss of a loved one, loss of employment, loss of somewhere safe and warm. Spare a prayer too for the many travelling refugees who find themselves in difficult circumstances. I like the idea, as many people do, of donating to a charity of your choice at Christmas as a way of helping others.

I hope you have a peaceful Christmas whatever the rules are, and that you can see friends and family and enjoy time together.

God Bless.

Your friend Rev Paul.



*A happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year to everyone
From: Revd Paul, Revd John, Revd Richard and the Ministry Team*

ST HILDEBURGH'S VOYAGERS



Last Sunday our Voyagers made Christmas tree decorations and presented Revd Paul with a special one for his tree.

WIRRAL FOODBANK



Thursday - donations on their way to the Wirral Foodbank.

The work of the Foodbank continues and your donations are always welcome. Please leave donations in the porch at The Vicarage 1 Stanley Road, Hoylake.

Thank you.

CHRISTMAS AT ST HILDEBURGH'S

Christmas Eve 24 December : 11.30pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day 25 December: 8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion
No evening service

Sunday 26 December: 9am Holy Communion
No evening service

50/50 Club

Liz Ards writes:

The 50/50 draw for December took place at the wonderful St. Hildeburgh's Christmas meal on Friday 10th December. The winner, of £47.50, was Nancy Fraser with number 21. Well done Nancy.

Anyone still wishing to join would now pay £10 for the remainder of draws (Oct 2022). There are still a few numbers available and half of all the proceeds help church funds.

If interested see Liz Ards or ring 632 3544.

Thanks and Happy Christmas everyone.

Liz

FLOWER OF THE WEEK: DAPHNE

83rd in a series

Text and photographs by Peter Surridge.

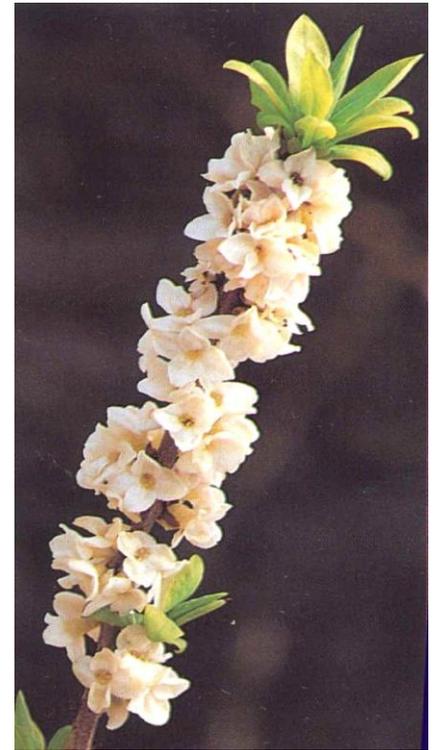
She's small, sweet and comforting in winter. Her name is Daphne – a feminine shrub if ever there was one. Some forms are in bloom this month, scenting the air all round them. The blossoms, tubular with four waxy petals spreading outward at their tips, resemble individual lilac flowers. They open, often before the leaves unfurl, along the branches or at their tips and can be white, pink, red or pale purple, depending on the variety.

Daphnes have a reputation for being difficult to grow. It is true that some of them sulk for years if conditions are too wet or too dry but more seems to depend on care of the roots, with dryish, gritty soil below, topped by rich soil or a mulch of garden compost. They dislike being transplanted so it is best to start with very young plants or container-grown specimens. They respond to 'green fingers' more than many other plants. Some people can grow them well without making any special preparations while others go to all sorts of trouble without much success.

The best-known type, *Daphne mezereum*, also known as mezereon (pictured), usually blooms in February. The flowers on upright stems are either white followed by yellow berries or rich, rosy-purple succeeded by red fruits. The best white forms are Bowles' Variety (pictured) and Alba. The ideal place for mezereon is by the front door, where its fragrance can be appreciated often by householders and visitors alike. Mezereon varieties reach a maximum height of 1.5 metres (5ft) and, although some live for only a few years, new specimens can be grown easily from seed, as long as you keep finches away from the berries. As a bonus, self-sown plants are sometimes found around established shrubs.



***Above: Flowers for the front door
– Daphne mezereum.***



***Right: Wonderful white – Daphne
mezereum Bowles' Variety.***

Daphnes have the undeserved reputation of not liking the cold, but this is almost certainly because one of the most popular species, *Daphne odora*, is not fully hardy, although its variety *Aureomarginata*, with yellow-edged leaves, seems to be more cold-tolerant in a well-drained, sunny spot. For successful gardeners, *Daphne odora* is first prize of the year. An attractive, rounded evergreen bush one metre (3ft) tall, it has highly-fragrant white blooms with a reddish tinge. Another delightful species is *Daphne bholua*, with glossy pink flowers and heavy scent. There is an evergreen form, *Jacqueline Postill*, though the deciduous variety *Ghurka*, which reliably flowers on bare branches in winter, is more widely-grown.

It is rumoured that yellow-flowered daphnes are not scented but *Daphne jezoensis* will convince anyone otherwise, although it does like the same sort of acid soil beloved by rhododendrons. It loses its leaves in summer rather than autumn and has been known to deceive some gardeners into thinking it is dead and discarding it.

Check in & Chat Service

Since the onset of the Covid19 lockdown, Wirral Mind has responded by offering welfare telephone calls to those people who feel isolated, lonely, anxious and afraid due to being unable to access our services and others.

Our Check-in and Chat call operatives are on hand to provide practical and emotional support, for anything from accessing emergency food supplies and medicines to alleviating loneliness and isolation. We endeavour to ensure that people are getting the help they need during lockdown periods and beyond; we are especially concerned about reaching those people who may not be in contact with other services or social networks.



We have tried to target services to those struggling because of loss of employment, bereavement and social isolation derived from the pandemic.

Our ultimate aim is to encourage people to access services in person when it is safe to do so, until that can happen we have developed a range of digital workshops, training and peer support groups that will promote and encourage future social networks, reduce feelings of isolation and equip people with the skills and tools that will build resilience.

To make a referral:

Please contact us on 0151 512 2200 or email learning@wirralmind.org.uk

Our phone lines are open Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm



www.wirralmind.org.uk

Registered charity no. 1854887



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Weekly Beacon

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If you wish to contribute an article or place a notice in the Weekly Beacon please e-mail sthildeburgh.parish.office@gmail.com

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