## St Clements and St Tudwals: December 2023

# Weekly Services Sundays 10.30am St Clements Wednesdays 10am St Tudwals

#### **Dates**

Thur 21<sup>st</sup> Dec: A Service of Carols and Candles, St Tudwal's 6.30pm, followed by mulled wine in the Vicarage Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec 12.30-2pm SOUPER SATURDAY, Church Hall, with the making of Christingles from 12 noon.

### Christmas Eve, Sun 24th Dec:

10.30am NO SERVICE at St Clements (communion service at 9am at Burton) 5pm Christingle and Crib Service St Clements 10pm First Communion of Christmas

Christmas Day, Mon 25th Dec

8.30am Holy Communion, said, St Tudwals
10.30am Family Communion St Clements

Wed 27th Dec 10am Communion at St Tudwals: The Feast of St John

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Dec: NO SOUPER SATURDAY Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 10.30am service as normal

11.30pm Carols, Prayer and Mulled Wine in the St Tudwals to see in the New Year, and watching

the fireworks being set off up and down the Haven

Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Jan: NO SOUPER SATURDAY Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Jan: LMA Council 7 for 7.30pm

Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Jan: SOUPER SAT is BACK!!! For the rest of Jan and Feb Mon 15<sup>th</sup> Jan: Church Committee meet at St Clements Room

#### NB A guide to our church Christmas...

**Events:** all listed above. "A Service of Carols and Candles" – celebrating and pondering ..and going out into the night with the light of Christ. The Christingle/Crib service: oranges, candles, carols – as dusk falls on the night before Christmas. The "midnight" communion is at 10pm this year. We thought we would give the earlier time a try. And on Christmas morning a said communion at St Tudwals and a simple family communion at St Clements

**Giving** Collections at Christmas services will go as follow: St Tudwals, the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal; St Clements: Mtemaumo School Malawi: to pay for porridge for breakfast for every child in every day of 2024!

ZOOM: Thanks to Jim and John we have been very consistent in zooming the Sunday morning service from St Clements. I think we will be able to zoom Christmas Morning, 10.30am. We might not be able to ZOOM the Christingle or the 10pm on Christmas Eve. We will try, but cannot guarantee it. Sorry

<u>Souper Saturdays</u>: Souper Saturdays return on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and will continue throughout the month, including Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. They will then re-start in January, following the Christmas holidays. Each Souper Saturday in December will have a Christmas-linked theme, with our first one, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, including a Christmas craft fair. There will also be an optional activity at each: Christmas card making (2<sup>nd</sup> Dec), making Christmas wreaths (9<sup>th</sup> Dec), handmade Christmas decorations (16<sup>th</sup> Dec), and Christmas crackers (23<sup>rd</sup> Dec). With a few carols on Christmas Eve Eve.

Thank yous to those who have made our two Christmas events really special Noel in Neyland was wonderful: our thanks to Cleddau Chamber Orchestra, Neyland Ladies Chour, the School Choir and furniture movers.

The Nativity was lovely – full range of ages, from a one week old Jesus (thank you, Albi!) upwards: cake makers, coffee servers, actors and musicians

Church cleaners and decorators.......And more.

Christmas Message from our new bishop, Dorrien Davies

LLYS ESGOB, ABERGWILI Advent/Christmas 2023.

Dear Friends,

"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased." Luke 2:14

At Christmas we are reminded of the message of the angels to the shepherds "Peace on Earth", it is an important part of the Christmas narrative. As we reflect on the events of the past year, and all that has happened in the world the hope of the heavenly peace in our lives is more relevant than ever.

On the night that Jesus was born, the angel appeared to the shepherds announcing the birth of the Saviour, the Messiah. The shepherds would find this baby not in a palace or great house, but lying in a manger, a feed trough for animals. Yet in this simplistic, humble way the Incarnate God came into this world. Even though the world kept spinning and the events of that first Christmas went for the most part unnoticed, heaven resounded with the joy of the coming of the Prince of Peace. Lk 2.14. This is somewhat of an irony today when we realise that the town of Bethlehem is only forty-five miles away from the horrors and atrocities of conflict.

Christ comes to bring Salvation, hope, life and peace; in the heavenly message the angels testify and celebrate this peace as being for all people. Through the Saving, loving work of Christ, we can have peace with God, which hopefully will lead us into a peace with one another. Peace in our churches, peace in our communities, peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine and all troubled places in our world, and peace in our lives.

As we reflect on the life of Jesus Christ we come to realise that he came to bring a more expansive and inclusive peace. His mission was to establish the peace of God. This is more than inner peace. It is more than the cessation of war. It is even more than reconciliation between us and God. The peace of Christ includes all of these and more, it is the peace of his life in us. It envisions a universe governed by God in which all relationships are fully loving and just. This peace is centred in a right relationship with God, and it touches everything else in life.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, may we enjoy the peace we have with God through Christ. And may we be given a foretaste of the peace on earth that is yet to come. The peace of Jesus is for everyone, and when we accept his presence in our lives it changes our attitude in everything we do. Imagine the difference made between the shepherds and the baby Jesus, how the shepherds' lives were changed. Having heard the angels' message and travelled to the stable in Bethlehem; as they kneel before the Incarnate God, they experience that peace, that was beyond their understanding, is now within their reach. We too can have that peace by recognising that Jesus is our hope and that he gives meaning and peace to all our lives.

A festive blessing to you all, Merry Christmas,

+ Dorrien St Davids