

St Neots Parish Church (St Mary) & Eynesbury St Mary

Welcome to Worship!

Sunday 30th November 2025

The First Sunday of Advent (Year A)



Services today

8 a.m.	Eucharist (BCP)	St Neots Parish Church
9.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist <i>President – The Rector; Preacher – The Revd Margaret Marshall</i>	St Neots Parish Church Thorne
Hymns: 38; 302 (2ndt); 39; Anthem + 57; 41		
<i>The 16 days to 10th December (Human Rights Day) are days of activism against gender-based violence. Intercessions this morning will include words and silence focused on this.</i>		
11 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	Eynesbury
Hymns:	38; 302 (2ndt); 39; 41	Thorne
6 p.m.	Service of Music and Readings for Advent	St Neots Parish Church

Services & Events this week

Monday	10.30	Communion at Henbrook House	
Tuesday	10.45	Mothers' Union Advent Service	SNPC
Wednesday	09.30	Eucharist	SNPC
	11.00	Eucharist at Poppyfields	
Thursday	09.30	Eucharist	Eynesbury
	09.30	School Visit	SNPC
	12.00	Funeral (Parsons)	SNPC
Friday	09.30	Eucharist	SNPC
	12.00	Funeral (Smith)	SNPC
	14.30	Communion at Old Vicarage Care Home	

Services for next Sunday, 7th December (Advent 2):

8 a.m.	Eucharist (BCP)	St Neots Parish Church
9.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St Neots Parish Church
11 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	Eynesbury

Giving for the work of the Church

We do not pass a collection plate around the congregation during the service, but we always welcome donations from those who attend worship, either in cash or by using the card reader near the door at SNPC before or after the service.

Please Gift Aid that donation if you can do so (envelopes are available).

We also encourage regular givers to become members of the Parish Giving Scheme (which is how many Church members make their donations).

Please ask at the door, or via the Office, if you want more information about this.

The Parish of St Neots with Eynesbury, Reg Charity No 1195248, in the Church of England Diocese of Ely.

Rector: The Revd Canon Paul Hutchinson, The Rectory, Church Street, 01480 471297

Office: Church Street, 01480 370312; office@stneots.org - www.stneots.org Weekly Sheet 20251130

Collect for the First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Alternative Collect

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 2.1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

New Testament Reading: Romans 13.11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 24.36-44

‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Post-Communion Prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Poem for Advent

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come', written by Ruth Manz (1919-2008) in 1953

Peace be to you and grace from him
Who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all and shed his blood
That we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord,
The Lord, Almighty God,
Who was and is, and is to come;
Sing holy, holy Lord!

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon,
For Christ is coming soon.

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their all!

Written as a text for a motet setting by her husband Paul (1919-2009), which has become widely known, not least in performances by the well-known Cambridge college choirs.

Further Ahead

The St Neots Concert Band Christmas Concert takes place at 3pm, next Sunday, 7th December at St Neots United Reformed Church. The Fairhaven Singers Christmas Concert is at 8pm that day in the Chapel of Trinity College, Cambridge.

Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer – SNPC Wednesday 10th December 11 a.m. – Noon

Christingle at SNPC – Sunday 14th December, 4 p.m. (workshop at 2.30 p.m.)

Carols around the organ at Eynesbury Church – Thurs 18th December at 7.30 p.m.

School & Nursery Christmas Services:

Crackerjack Nursery	SNPC Monday 15 th December at 6 p.m.
St Mary's at SNPC:	Wednesday 17 th December at 10.30 a.m.
Eynesbury:	Thursday 18 th December at 2 p.m.
Diamond Learning P'ship:	SNPC, Friday 19 th December at 10.30 a.m.

Service of Lessons and Carols at SNPC – Sunday 21st December, 6 p.m.

Please note

- There will be no Wednesday 9.30 a.m. Eucharist at SNPC on the morning of 24th December (Christmas Eve).
- There will be no 'Saturday Social' or connected eucharist on Saturday 27th December – the next will be on Saturday 24th January.
- The choir and friends are singing Evensong at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 3rd January – supporters are very welcome!
- There will be no 8 a.m. BCP Eucharist on Sunday 4th January, but the Feast of the Epiphany will be kept on that day.

Christmas Eve & Morning Services in the Churches

Christmas Eve

4 p.m.	Crib Service with Carols	St Neots Parish Church
5.30 p.m.	Crib Service with Carols	Eynesbury
11 p.m.	'Midnight' Eucharist (Carols from 10.30)	St Neots Parish Church

Christmas Morning

8 a.m.	Quiet BCP Eucharist	St Neots Parish Church
9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist with Carols	St Neots Parish Church
11 a.m.	Eucharist with Carols	Eynesbury

Boxing Day (St Stephen)

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Neots Parish Church
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