

## St Giles Christmas Card

Instead of sending a Christmas card to each other here at St Giles please consider signing the big Christmas card on the table by the information desk and making a donation to Heart for Kids who are helping to bring change to orphans and children living in poverty and abandonment in China. Your gifts will provide winter clothing and shoes for the children. Many thanks.

## What's on this week ...

Mon 4th	9.30am	Staff prayers and meeting
	1.00pm	Wellbeing Cafe
	7.00pm	Older girls cell group
	7.00pm	Just Girls
	7.30pm	Exec Committee Meeting
Tues 5th	9.30am	Prayer meeting in the Centre
	10.00am	Toddle In
Wed 6th	10.00am	'Together' English Language group
	6.30pm	Mixed cell group
	7.30pm	Young Adults & Students in the Church Centre
Thur 7th	11.00am	Holy Communion - in the Centre
	12.15pm	Simple Lunch
Fri 8th	1.15pm	Ladies Bible Study Group
Sat 9th	8.00am	Men's Breakfast

## Sunday 10th December

10am	<b>Morning Worship:</b> The Angel comes to Zechariah Reading: Luke 1:5-25 Led by Maggie Kelly & Alison Steele Speaker: Steve Kelly
7pm	<b>Evening Worship</b> The Birth of John the Baptist Reading: Luke 1:57-80 Led by Steve Kelly Speaker: Diana Rees-Jones
7pm	<b>Youth Zone:</b> Christmas: A time to share



### Staff days off this week...

Steve is off Friday  
Jonny is off Saturday  
Tim is off Friday  
Diana is off Friday and Saturday  
Maggie is working Mon, Wed and Thurs

### Church Office hours this week:

Mon	1.00pm	-	3.00pm
Tues- Fri	10.00am	-	3.00pm

## Our Vision Statement

Our vision is to see lives being changed by the power of Jesus, one person at a time.

## New to St Giles?

Please introduce yourself at the information desk. We have various helpful leaflets. If you intend to worship regularly with us, please complete a 'New to St Giles?' card and return it so that we can get to know you!

## Holy Communion

If you are visiting us and normally receive Communion in your own church you are welcome to join us at Communion here. **If you prefer to receive non-alcoholic wine and/or gluten-free wafers, they are available** – please indicate to the person administering Communion.

## Giving

We do not take up an offering during services. Please place any offering in one of the boxes by pillars near the doors. Gift Aid declaration forms and envelopes are available nearby and at the information desk - as are standing order forms for regular giving.

## Food4Thought

Inspirational emails Monday to Friday. If you would like to receive them, please subscribe via our website: <http://stgilesnorthampton.org.uk/church-life/food-4-thought/>

## Valuables

Please keep your handbag, keys, wallet, etc with you at all times.

## Gifts for Ladies at Eve

We would like to give gifts of toiletries to the ladies of Eve (formerly NVCF Refuge). Please put unwrapped gift sets (suitable for younger women) in the box by the information desk so we can deliver them on the 3rd, 10th or 17th December. Many thanks.

## St Giles car park

For health and safety reasons, please avoid parking down the centre of the car park which can restrict the exit of other users parking in a designated space. Thank you.

## Bible Society - Nine Lessons and Carols

The annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be at Christ Church, Wellingborough Road, Northampton on Monday 11th December at 7.30pm. This will be an uplifting and enjoyable occasion. There will be a collection for the Bible Society, helping their important work. Please come!

### Contact us:

tel: 01604 628623 (admin) or 230360 (pastoral)  
e: [enquiries@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk)  
w: [www.stgilesnorthampton.org.uk](http://www.stgilesnorthampton.org.uk)  
fb: [stgilesnorthampton](https://www.facebook.com/stgilesnorthampton)



## Our Vicar writes...

We had a record number of papers for our PCC meeting on Monday evening! A summary of the meeting follows:-

An expenditure budget of **£406,056** was approved. Estimated levels of income and giving mean we may well have a deficit in 2018.  
A budget for major property works of **£57,000** was presented. The PCC will decide in the New Year.  
Our Safeguarding Policy has been updated and was approved by the PCC. There will be a teaching series in January 2018 looking at Pastoral Care/ 'Safer Church'.

### Other news:

*Resource Church* – the groundwork is being laid and there will be information to the church on this in the New Year.

*St Giles and FISH* have agreed and secured funding for a partnership pilot project involving a Student Support Worker on the university campus.

*The World of Difference Fair* broke all previous records.

*Bishop John* wrote expressing his enjoyment of his visit and our prayers and words for him.

I'm grateful to all those who serve our church in this way. 2018 will stretch us in all sorts of ways. We'll need to be bold and to step out in faith. **But our God is faithful!**

## Sunday 3rd December

	1st Sunday of Advent
10am	<b>Morning Worship: Christingle with Uniformed Parade</b> 'Jesus is the Saviour of the world' Reading: John 1:1-14 Led by Diana Rees-Jones Speaker: Tim Smith
7pm	<b>1st Sunday Joint Celebration</b> Introduction to Advent Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11, 27-31 Led by Matt Smith and Rachel Patching Speaker: Rachel Patching
7pm	<b>Youth Zone:</b> Joint Celebration, Advent



## Growing Up...

### The Children's Society collection

There will be a collection for the work of The Children's Society today at our Christingle Service. Please give some thought to contributing to this worthy cause.

### Men @ St Giles' Saturday 9th December

We continue our focus on mental and emotional health, with a Full English Breakfast at the Church Centre followed by a talk by Steve Kelly with David Smart and Chris Davison entitled " Health Check 4 - "Building Resilience". 8am - 9.45am (prompt finish).

### Care & Prayer Directory update

We are about to update our Care & Prayer Directory. This is a list of names, addresses and telephone numbers provided so that church members may contact each other easily. It's also a useful aid in praying for each member of our church. A current (enlarged) copy is displayed on the boards near the information desk. Please check your entry and initial if correct, amend if changed. It will be published in the new year so please bear in mind any changes likely to be relevant by then. If you consider yourself to be part of St Giles Church family and are not currently in the directory, please complete a pink form on the table near the organ. Please also look at the Email list and make any necessary changes or add your details if you want to be included. This is also on the table near the organ. Many thanks.

### Christmas Services at St Giles

Please see our website for details of our Christmas Services ([www.stgilesnorthampton.org.uk/Christmas](http://www.stgilesnorthampton.org.uk/Christmas)) and pick up an invitation card from the information desk to encourage a friend or family member to come along! There are also some A4 posters on the information desk if you would like to put one in your window at home or work.

### Christmas cards for sale

Following the World of Difference Fair there will be Christmas cards for sale from some of the charities after this morning's service.

### Christmas cards for mission partners

Last chance to sign TODAY! Our mission partners love to have a card from us with lots of signatures; it helps them to feel part of us and to keep in touch. So please take the opportunity after the service this morning.

## Joining In...

### Cake Sale for Starlight

The Summers family would like to say a huge 'thank you' for being so generous in supporting Amelia and the Starlight charity at the cake sale a couple of weeks ago. An amazing £313 was raised! Thank you all so much.

### Mince Pies for our Christmas Services

This year we will be buying mince pies centrally. Thank you to all those who have contributed in the past. It has been much appreciated.

### Rev Diana Rees-Jones (from Steve)

I am very pleased to let you know that, with immediate effect, Diana's job title has changed to Associate Vicar. It has been a pleasure and joy to share in ministry with Diana since she joined the staff team in 2014. Diana has my full confidence and support and it is a blessing to have such an able and trusted colleague to work and minister with. I'm sure you will join me in offering her both our thanks for all that she does and very best wishes in her role. Her new email address is [associatevicar@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk](mailto:associatevicar@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk)

**BE! at the Pub in November!** An invitation to all women to enjoy an evening together, enjoying conversation, food and drink in a relaxed atmosphere. **Tuesday 12th Nov from 7pm** at the [Zapato Lounge](#) in the top corner of the Market Square. Bring a friend or come on your own. Either meet at 7pm in the church car park or else at Zapato. If you have any questions, email us at [women@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk](mailto:women@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk). Hope to see you there!

### Prayer and Praise Northampton

An evening of praise, worship, prayers and intercession on Monday 4th December 7.30-9.30pm at New Testament Church of God, College Street, NN1 2QP. Entrance free.

### Caroline Johnson - Wedding News!

Some of you will remember Caroline Johnson who attended St Giles church for many years and wishes to announce that she is getting married to Ian on 6th January at 2pm at Abington Avenue URC. Both Ian and Caroline would love to see you at the church ceremony to share in this joyous occasion if you are able to come.

## Spreading Out...

## Giving Away...

### Prayer Points...

**We are asked to pray especially this week for:**

- ⇒ The Persecuted Church
- ⇒ CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society)
- ⇒ Chaplains working in the NHS, police, armed forces, including Philip Evans at St Andrews and George Sarmezey at NGH.

**Those who are unwell or bereaved, especially:**

- ⇒ Family and friends of Audrey Harvey who recently passed away. Her funeral is on Tuesday 5th December 1pm at St Giles church.
- ⇒ Tim Walker suffering with vertigo.
- ⇒ Family and friends of Lucy, a young mum who has passed away.
- ⇒ Lisa White, after the death of her friend, Zoe.
- ⇒ Hubert Garrett, neighbour of Linda Ashdown, who is very poorly.
- ⇒ Elizabeth Allenby, for continued recovery, especially for her voice.
- ⇒ Sheila Angus, recovering from her operation.
- ⇒ Alyth Allen for continued recovery of her knee operation.
- ⇒ Helen Hill recovering from her operation.
- ⇒ Sally Harris following a bereavement.
- ⇒ Carole Lewis' mum Deva Bailey in convalescent care after a fall. Thank God for His healing and grace and pray for continued progress.
- ⇒ David Smart's mother-in-law, Sylvia Thompson, who is seriously ill with cancer.
- ⇒ Laurie Brown
- ⇒ Peter Ford, Lois's friend, who has secondary cancer.

If you know someone who needs our prayers, please contact the clergy or the parish office. **We will only include their name here for 2 weeks; please contact us after that time if you would like them to be included for a further 2 weeks.**

### For Israel & the Middle East

Lord of Encounters, how very grateful we are for Your many means of encountering us -and others who are 'not of Your fold': gentiles whom You passionately desire to know You and become Your Ambassadors. Send another believer alongside each to explain more.