

What's on for the next few weeks ...

Thur 4th	11.00am	Holy Communion - in the centre
	12.15pm	Simple lunch
Fri 5th	1.15pm	Ladies Bible Study Group
Mon 8th	9.30am	Staff Prayers and meeting
	1.00pm	Wellbeing Café
	7.00pm	Older girls cell group
	7.30pm	Property Committee Meeting
Tues 9th	9.30am	Prayer meeting in the Centre
	10.00am	Toddle In
	7.00pm	Ready for Retirement course
Wed 10th	10.00am	'Together' English Language group
	2.30pm	Senior Fellowship
	6.30pm	Mixed cell group
	7.30pm	Young Adults and Students in the church centre
Thurs 11th	11.00am	Holy Communion - in the centre
	12.15pm	Full Lunch
Fri 12th	1.15pm	Ladies Bible Study Group
Sat 13th	9.30am	Ready for Retirement course (time to be confirmed)

Sunday 7th January

10am	Morning Worship with Family Communion A Caring Church Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-13:7 Led by Diana Rees-Jones Speaker: Jonny Dade
7pm	Joint Celebration and Baptism Service New year, new start Acts 8: 26-39 Led by Tim Smith and Jonny Dade Speaker: Tim Smith

Staff are not generally available during the Christmas and New Year period. **In the event of a pastoral emergency,** please contact Steve on 07391 839741. *Please note the vicarage number is currently out of order.*

Steve & Maggie are available Tues 2nd & Wed 3rd, but not available from Thurs 4th - Sunday 7th Jan
Jonny is available on 31st Dec and then from Tues 2nd
Tim is available from Tuesday 2nd
Diana is available from Wednesday 3rd
Serena is not available until Mon 8th Jan

Church Office hours over the Christmas period:

The church office will be closed from Monday 25th December until Tuesday 2nd January

Church office re-opens:

Tuesday 2nd Jan - Friday 5th Jan 10am-3pm

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.

Winter Glory - planting the heavens

Saturday 27th January A day conference for women of all ages ... with Amy Orr-Ewing and Tanya Walker. This is always a great day at the start of a new year - do come!! Visit www.winterglory.co.uk for more information and to book - Tickets are £5 cheaper if you buy before the end of December. Get your own ticket and share lifts - talk to a member of the BE team if you want to know more, or email: women@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk

Carol Singing around the wards, Northampton General Hospital, tonight from 6.45pm (meet in the restaurant on Hospital Street).

Are you up for a Welly Walk? The Jefferson Housegroup invite anyone to join them on a Welly Walk around Sywell reservoir on Friday December 29th. Meet at 1.30pm in the lower car park. (£3.00 car park fee)

Contact us:

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



Our Vicar writes...

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us

*Can it be, Almighty God who never sleeps
Is resting here in perfect peace?
The Holy One as one of us, one of us.
The same blood, the same flesh, one of us.*



*The same skin, the same breath, one of us.
The same dust and dirt,
The same trials and hurts,
One of us, one of us.*

Matt Redman @ 2016 Sixsteps Music

May this glorious truth fill your hearts with joy and wonder this Christmas time.

With love and best wishes Steve and Maggie

Sunday 24th December

10am	Morning Worship The song of Mary Reading: Luke 1:39-56 Led by Jo Smith Speaker: Maggie Kelly
3.30pm	Children's Carols Around the Crib With seasonal readings
11pm	Late Night Holy Communion O holy night With seasonal readings Led by Tim Smith Speaker: Steve Kelly



4th Sunday of Advent

Monday 25th December

10am	Christmas Day: Communion Together Christ the Saviour is born Reading: Luke 2:1-20 Led by Jonny Dade Speaker: Tom Boulter
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Sunday 31st December

10am	Worship Together My eyes have seen your salvation Reading: Luke 2:22-40 Led by Bob Steele Speaker: Jonny Dade
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Growing Up...

Adult Baptism Service Sunday 7th January

We are looking forward to several people being baptised on Sunday evening, 7th January. If you have been thinking about being baptised and would like to discuss this further, please speak to Diana or Steve.

New Wine Summer Conference, 5th-11th August 2018

We hope to have a big group from St Giles at the New Wine summer conference (week 2) at the Royal Bath & West Showground in Shepton Mallet this year and would love you to join us. For more information visit: united.new-wine.org or contact the office on 01604 628623.

VACANCY:

Ministry Trainee (Students & Young Adults)

32 Hours p/w

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

This is an exciting opportunity to serve the church and the wider mission of God for an 18 month period (early 2018-summer 2019). Ideally suited to a person* exploring a call to Christian ministry, this role will focus on developing mission and ministry with University students and young adults. The role includes a 12hr p/w secondment to FISH to work with international students. Training and stipend provided (full details available on request).

Contact Jonny Dade for an informal discussion or see the website for application details.

[\(http://www.stgilesnorthampton.org.uk/church-life/job-vacancies/\)](http://www.stgilesnorthampton.org.uk/church-life/job-vacancies/)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 29th December

**St Giles Church is an equal opportunities employer. However, the funding criteria for part of this post means we would be looking to engage a younger person.*

Joining In...

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve

There are no evening services on either of these Sundays. However, there is a late night communion service at 11pm on Christmas eve.

Tuesday 9th January @ 7.30pm



Prayer Central

Come and join us to pray together.

Please check your pigeonhole!

Please check your pigeonhole for any rotas, Christmas cards and other correspondence that may be for you.

Alpha in the New Year!

Our next Alpha Launch in on Thursday 25th January, 7pm. Now is the time to be thinking and praying about coming along and bringing a friend. More details to follow in the new year.



Ready for Retirement is a new course being piloted by the national Livability charity and St Giles are hosting in January. Two Tuesday evenings and one Sat: 9th, 13th and 16th January. To register interest please email Maggie asap. assistantminster@stgilesnorthampton.org.uk

Spreading Out...

Giving Away...

Prayer Points...

We are asked to pray for:

24th Dec: All our mission partners, Churches in Northampton, The Homeless
31st Dec: Gill and Peter Vriend, Grange Park Church, those you know who are struggling with stress and mental health issues.

Those who are unwell or bereaved, especially:

- ⇒ David Cline who is now on a waiting list for a heart operation in Oxford.
- ⇒ Alle Dekenah's daughter, Emma, for full recovery from a spiral fracture to her leg.
- ⇒ Simon Challoner for continued recovery at home
- ⇒ Peggy Brewer who is poorly.
- ⇒ Yoke and her daughter Gabrielle.
- ⇒ Tim Walker suffering with vertigo.
- ⇒ Hubert Garrett, neighbour of Linda Ashdown, who is very poorly.
- ⇒ Carole Lewis' mum Deva Bailey in convalescent care after a fall. Thank God for His healing and grace and pray for continued progress.
- ⇒ 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

Behold, says the psalm, how pleasant and good it is when brethren dwell in unity . . . we thank You for the annual gathering in Galilee of Jewish and Arab congregations celebrating their spiritual kinship, worshipping You in awakened delight. Truly through Yeshua You build unity.

Riding Lights event for the whole church at St Giles on February 4th

'Faith in the Questions' is a one act play followed by a question and answer session with a panel of professional scientists who are also Christians. Hywel Rees-Jones is arranging the visit and **would appreciate help from a small number of volunteers to publicise and organise the event.** If you are interested then please contact Hywel.