

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

'To know Christ and to make Him known'



**The United Benefice of Mears Ashby, Hardwick and Sywell with Overstone.**

**Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> Advent 2 with St Nicholas, Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> Advent 3**

Welcome to our Service.

If you are visiting the Benefice, we welcome you and invite you to make yourself known to Revd Katrina or a member of the team. We hope that you enjoy our service and would direct you to our website [www.mearsashbygroup.org.uk](http://www.mearsashbygroup.org.uk) to find out more about the life of our churches.

## Morning and Communion Readings

December 8<sup>th</sup> Isaiah 11: 1-10; Matthew 3: 1-12  
 December 8<sup>th</sup> St Nicholas Isaiah 61: 1-3; Mark 10: 13-16  
 December 15<sup>th</sup> Isaiah 35: 1-10; Matthew 11: 2-11  
 December 22<sup>nd</sup> Carol Services Special Readings.

## Diary – Forthcoming Events

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm to 4.00pm Christmas Tree Festival, Sywell Church.  
 Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 7.00pm Choir Practice, Mears Ashby.  
 Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 10am Christmas Coffee Morning and Christmas Tree Festival, Hardwick.  
 Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm Mears Ashby School Christingle Service.  
 Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm Fellowship Evening with Christmas meal.  
 Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2.30pm Sywell School's Crib Service.  
 Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 4.00pm Messy Christingle, Overstone Church.  
 Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 11.30pm Midnight Communion with carols, Sywell.  
 Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 8.00am Christmas Communion, Hardwick.  
 Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December 10.00am Christmas Communion, Mears Ashby.  
 Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 7.30pm Benefice Fellowship Evening at Tony's, Wilby.

Sunday 8th December	9.00am	St Leonard's, Hardwick	Morning Worship
	11.00am	St Nicholas, Overstone	Family Communion for St Nicholas
	4.00pm	All Saints, Mears Ashby	Advent Carols
Sunday 15th December	9.00am	All Saints, Mears Ashby	Holy Communion with hymns
	11.00am	Ss Peter and Paul, Sywell	Holy Communion with songs and hymns
	1.30pm	Northampton Street Church	
	6.00pm	St Leonard's, Hardwick	Carol Service
Sunday 22nd December	11.00am	Ss Peter and Paul, Sywell	Village Carol Service
	6.00pm	All Saints, Mears Ashby	Carol Service

**Information for the newsletter to Tony ([tony70jema@gmail.com](mailto:tony70jema@gmail.com)) or Revd Katrina by Wednesday please. Thank you.**

## PRAYERS PLEASE

Please pray for all our families and friends within the Benefice, especially for those finding life difficult and for those who are ill or awaiting or have had operations or who have lost a loved one. As we approach Christmas please pray for all our schools, headteachers, parents, staff, governors and pupils.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Advent Carols – Mears Ashby – 4pm on Sunday 8th December

### Christmas Tree Festivals –

Sywell – Sunday 8th 2pm – 4pm

Hardwick – Saturday 14th / Sunday 15th December

### Christmas Coffee Mornings -

Hardwick – Saturday 14th December 10am to 11.30am

### Carols and Christingles -

Hardwick – 6pm Sunday on 15th December

Mears Ashby – 6pm on Sunday 22nd December

Sywell – 11am on Sunday 22nd December

Overstone – Messy Christingles – 4pm on Christmas Eve

### Christmas Communion -

Sywell – Midnight Mass, 11.30pm on Tuesday 24th December

Hardwick – Christmas Communion, 8am on Christmas Day

Mears Ashby – Christmas Communion, 10am on Christmas Day

Benefice Christmas cards are now available

## ADVENT

Advent is a time of preparation, and what better way to get ready than to read a book. Here are just a few suggestions for the 24 days leading up to Christmas.

Luke's Gospel – one chapter a day

John Sentamu – Wake up Advent !

Nick Baines – Freedom is Coming

Janet Morley – Haphazard by starlight (poems)

Stephen Cottrell – Walking backwards to Christmas

Paula Gooder – The Meaning is in the Waiting

Every one involved with the Foodbank wishes you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We are still to be very busy and demand is up 46% on last year.

With your help 2,367 emergency parcels of food have been given and 24,225 people helped so far in 2019. Thank you



### These items are in short supply at the Foodbank.

Here is our list for December 2019, please ensure that no products contains alcohol.

Items can also be dropped off at  
Daylight Shop 2 Cambridge Street, Wellingborough  
Tesco, Victoria Park, Wellingborough  
Sainsburys, Northampton Road, Wellingborough

Every donation really does make a difference in our community. Thank you for your generous support.

Cans	Jars	Packets	Cartons/ Bottles	Miscellaneous	Overstocked not currently required
Fish Fruit Potato Spag Hoops Tomato Rice Pudding Custard	Jam Marmalade Marmite Fish/Meat Paste Pasta Sauce Hot Chocolate Coffee	Instant Dessert Jelly Mug Shots Noodles Pot Noodles Instant Mash Biscuits Cereal Sugar Tea	UHT Milk UHT Fruit Juice (not grapefruit) Fruit squash	Strong Carrier Bags Can Openers Shower Gel Toilet Rolls Shampoo Deodorant	Baked Beans Pasta Pulses Sanitary Products Razors

Drop items in anytime between 9:30 am and 4:00 pm Monday - Friday (exc. Bank Holidays.)  
Donation bins are also available at Daylight Shop, 2 Cambridge Street, Tesco Victoria Park, Sainsburys, Northampton Road  
Contact Details: 01933 446494 www.daylightcf.org/foodbank

**Christmas Opening times.**  
The foodbank will be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Friday 27th December and New Year's day  
Normal hours will resume from January 2nd 2020,

If you would like to help but cannot make it to the shops, you can make an online financial donation at <http://localgiving.org/charity/daylight/project/wellingboroughfoodbank>

This enables us to buy in the items that are in short supply.

All donations should be in date and in unopened packaging.  
Donations can be made Monday to Friday between 9:30 am and 4:00 pm, directly to the Foodbank at the rear of Queens Hall, 8 High Street, Wellingborough, NN8 4JU.

Alternatively donations bins can be found around the town, in places such as Tesco, Victoria Park, Sainsburys Northampton Road and the Daylight Shop, Cambridge Street.

## SWEP

### SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

To prepare for the possibility of severe weather and to help the rough sleepers SWEP are looking for volunteers to help provide a safe and warm place to stay in the Hope Centre, Oasis House, Northampton. Donations of food and warm clothing are required.  
If you can help please contact Kallie Jones on 07717733034 or 01604 838445.