

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

POST COMMUNION

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge:

give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings for 9th Dec 2018

FIRST READING

Baruch 5 v 1-9

SECOND READING

Philippians 1 v 3-11

GOSPEL

Luke 3 v 1-6

Readings for 16th Dec 2018

Zephaniah 3 v 14 - 20

Philippians 4 v 4-7

Luke 3 v 7 - 18

St Benedicts Christmas Fayre

Many thanks to all who helped at the Christmas Fayre last week. **You raised over £1200.** Especial thanks to the organisers Nigel & Paula and to all who came and helped before, during and after the event.


Christmas day party at the Abbey Centre

Once again you are asked for help and prayers for Christmas day for the elderly people who would otherwise be on their own. Help is needed by Pat & Malcolm Johnson who organize the day. If you can help or know someone who would like to attend please contact Pat or Malcolm 0773 625 4241

Northampton Food Bank

As the weather gets colder and school holidays approach the work of the Food bank increases. If you are able to support our collection there is a list of items needed and a collection box in church. Many thanks for your support.

Carols by Candlelight

 Our Carols by candlelight service is next Sunday, 16th December at 6.00pm. Contributions of mince pies and bottles of mulled wine are needed. **Please bring into church and also let Mary Roach know what you are donating**

Christmas Cards

There are still some SNPC Christmas cards with details of local Church services over Christmas needing to be distributed.

Please help with this if you can spare an hour or so.

Children's Society House Boxes

Thank you to everyone who has brought in their Children's Society box for emptying. If you do not have a Children's Society box or would like more details on what the Children's Society does please do ask. Many thanks, **Sue Wilson**

Hope Centre eviction; how you can help

The Hope Centre which St Benedict's supports was, on 15th Oct, given just 12 months' notice to vacate the day centre facility in Oasis House. The Day Centre, as you and anyone who has ever had experience of Hope knows, is a place where the homeless and vulnerable of Northampton have come to know and trust. Individuals who use the service receive a fantastic service, and being asked to leave is already having a negative impact on many of those people they seek to support.

The Hope Centre is asking those who made this decision to have a rethink: to consult, to review the impact, and rescind the eviction notice. If you haven't already done so, please sign the petition setup by our patron Sally Keeble at

<https://www.change.org/p/midlands-heart-save-the-hope-centre>

or write to your councillor . Thank you

Please note As from this week Christmas cards featuring two designs by a Hope Centre user are being sold in aid of the Hope Centre.




Christingle Making

This will take place on **Sunday 23rd December** after the 10am Service. Everyone is welcome to help and there will be a soup lunch for all helpers. The more people we have helping, the faster we will finish! Thank you, **Marion Angus**

Church APCM Advanced notice

Although the APCM is not until 27th April, please get your reports in plenty of time i.e. by the end of February. Thankyou. **Norman Critchlow**

Carol singing

 Carol singing at Tesco on Monday Dec 17th at 6.30pm followed by refreshments at St Benedict's. Do come and join us.

Postage Stamps

As you receive Christmas mail please do cut off the postage stamps (leaving a 5mm border) and put in the Leprosy Mission box in church. Thanks. **Geoffrey Goswell**

New year's Eve

As last year there will be a gathering in Church for those who are not otherwise engaged and would like to come!