



Sunday 4th December 2022

**Onsite services at Park Avenue, led by our Pastor, Rev Martin Gillard
Our Advent Christmas Countdown continues.**

10:30am Family Celebration Service

Sermon Theme: Explore Prayer

Today's Sermon Theme: Blessing/Declaration

Bible Reading: Luke 10:1-11

5:00pm Disciples Service

Series Theme: People of Prayer

Today's Sermon Theme: Hannah

Bible Reading: 1 Samuel 1:1 – 20

This service includes Holy Communion.

Children and young people are encouraged to go out with their leaders to Sunday Club during the second half of the morning service. There are three groups - School Years 1 - 2, 3 - 5 and those in Year 6 and above. Please speak to Natalie our Childrens' worker or Cathryn, CYF Coordinator, if you would like more information.

Refreshments are available at the end of both services.

If you are a visitor to our church, do please sign our visitors' book.

Special Events Coming Up

- **Church Advent prayer meeting** on Tuesday 13th December at 7pm.
- **Christingle & Family Christmas Party** on Friday 16th Dec at 5pm.
- **Christmas Outreach** at the bandstand on Saturday 17th December at 11am.

Diary for the week, 5th to 10th Dec

Monday

Park Avenue (Café)	7pm	House Group
37 Woodland Avenue	7:30pm	House group

Tuesday

Park Avenue (Café)	9am	Toddlers Toast
Park Avenue (Hall)	10am	Toddlers
Y Centre	10am	Food Bank
22 Adrian Close	10:30am	House group
John Street	11am	"Feet on the Street"
19 Birch Walk	7pm	House group

Wednesday

Park Avenue	11am	Traditional Service
Park Avenue	11:45am	Refreshments / Prayer Corner
Park Avenue (Café)	12:15pm	Lunch Club
Park Avenue (Café)	2.30pm	House group
Park Avenue (Café)	7pm	Gilgal Ladies

Thursday

Y Centre	10am	Food Bank
Park Avenue (Café)	2pm	Warm hub / Craft group

Friday

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Sunday 11th

Park Avenue	10:30am	Family Celebration Service
Park Avenue	5pm	Disciples Service

Prayer Needs

Those Bereaved: Vera and Caleb Jones on the death of Vera's sister Eunice. Dilwyn and Ann Jones on the death of their grandson Robbie.

Those in Hospital: Alan Lee.

Those Unwell at Home: Avis Watkins; Dilwyn and Ann Jones; Hilary Oatridge; Jeff Harber; Terry Needs; Lynda Edwards; Joanne Hopkins, Pat Habberley.

Those in Residential Care: Ann Thomas (Picton Court); Doug Davies; Pat Eales; Diane Sheppard; Ann Lewis (Monkstone House); Beryl Surringer (Newton Care Home); Carole Vanden Branden (Breaksea).

Praise report: Congratulations to new grandfather Phil Cooper and family as his daughter Alicia gave birth to a baby girl Sophia Paige Cooper.

Other announcements:

Gilgal Ladies meet this Wednesday (7th December) for a Christmas edition of Keep Fit Praise! Come along and join us for some gentle to moderate exercise with a sprinkling of festive songs to exercise along to! Followed by cakes and hot drinks and time to chat! 7pm in our Church Café. All women welcome: even if you're not into fitness, come and enjoy the music and time with one another.

Every Thursday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm the café will be open as a warm hub / craft group, everyone is welcome.

During Advent we prepare for Jesus' birth and also anticipate Jesus returning again. As you enter Gilgal, you will see a Christmas tree, where you will be able to place a gift tag containing your prayers for this Advent season. Prayers of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. Prayers celebrating new life, when someone accepts Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Church Advent prayer meeting: Tuesday 13th December at 7pm. An opportunity to pray through the prayers from the tree and to open our hearts to receive Jesus - *Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!* (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Christingle Service & Christmas Family Party: Friday 16th December. This event is for the whole Gilgal family, not just the children! The food will be on a Bring & Share basis, so please sign the sheet on the café notice board to indicate what you will be bringing.

Our **Christmas Outreach** at the bandstand has been reserved for Saturday 17th December at 11am. If you have any novel or creative ideas, please let Gordon know.

Preloved toys: We are looking for good condition toys, any size, but some small as well that can be used as stocking fillers. If people also have Christmas stockings that would be amazing, or even never used working batteries that would be really helpful. The plan is to have a selection of things here for Toddlers or families on a Sunday morning, as well as be able to take things to Foodbank to help any parents that may be struggling and access that service. On a Tuesday morning, this will be laid out in the Sanctuary from 9-10 during the Toddlers' tea and toast session and is a free bring-and-share gift idea (no payment required).

Gilgal Christmas cards - Once again we encourage you to give one Christmas card to cover everyone in the fellowship at Gilgal. Please place it on the string in the café area and the money that you save from giving lots of cards would be greatly welcomed in our building fund if you feel able. Thanks in advance for your continued generosity.

Can you help? The redevelopment of our building has cost us nearly £600,000. We need to raise a further £11,000 to avoid taking out a loan and to complete all our payments for this work. If you are able to make a gift, large or small, to the Building Fund please speak with our Treasurer, John Hornsby. Thank you.

Worship group: Next monthly meeting is on Saturday 7th January 2023 from 9.30 - 11am, which will include practice of songs for the following day.

Small Group Meetings: We are planning a refresh of our Home Groups and Bible Study/Prayer Groups beginning in January. If you would like to join a small group to discuss the bible, share in prayer and enjoy Christian fellowship please sign up on the sheets in the entrance foyer. **We also plan to offer a group on Zoom for those unable to attend 'in person'.**

Sunday Club – Help needed: Do you have a passion for encouraging children in their faith? We are looking for a couple more people to join the Sunday Club team. Please speak to either Cathryn or Natalie if you are interested.

Foodbank Collection Point: There is now a box in the cafe for donations and we would appreciate any of the following items: tinned meat, fish, fruit, vegetables, custard, rice pudding, flavoured noodles, small jars of coffee or instant hot chocolate, and toiletries. Or if preferred, you can give a financial donation to John or Margaret Hornsby or Alison Armstrong. Thanks for your faithfulness serving the Lord in Gilgal and our community.

Recycling Printer Cartridges - Thank you to those who have regularly given me their empty printer cartridges. I sent a large number away recently and we have earned Gilgal nearly £30. We now have a box in church, next to the Food Bank collection point, where you can leave your cartridges. I hope we can keep filling it up! Many thanks. Hazel.

Use of Premises: Please email Alison Farrow with any booking requests for the hall, church, or café - alison.farrow@hotmail.co.uk

Car Park - If you are one of the last cars in and blocking the middle section please be early to move so that others may also have a clear exit.

If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, about Gilgal church or to ask about Believers Baptism or Church Membership, please fill in a welcome card and hand it to our Pastor.

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