

DECEMBER 2016



CHRIST CHURCH
ANGLICAN

CCA TODAY

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Christ Church Anglican

God's Work in Progress

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

Don't be Caught Unaware!

Jesus is coming back and no one on earth has any idea when! That's what our first Gospel reading in Advent (Matthew 24:36-44) tells us. Jesus says, in fact, that *He* didn't even know when; only God the Father knows. Talk about keeping a secret! His point is that we should always be prepared for His coming, even though most people won't be. As His disciples, we should not lose sight of the fact that His second coming is as certain as His first.

Jesus said that the days of His return will be like the days of Noah, when "they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away" (Matt. 24:38-39). Only Noah was following God, so only he was living in such a way as to be prepared for the coming judgment. Our culture is at this same point, as even many within American churches have lost sight of the fact that Jesus promised He will return soon, at an unknown time. Most Americans, especially Millennials, are living the day-to-day with no awareness of Jesus Christ or the coming judgment that awaits us all at His return.

Truth be told, as you read this it is less than 10 days until Christmas Eve. Once that day arrives (if not long before), most of us will be so focused on Jesus's first arrival, or on cultural/familial Christmas celebrations, that we will lose sight of Christ's return entirely. Our church year will shift focus to the infancy of Jesus, then the coming of the 3 Kings, the revelation of Jesus (Epiphany) and His temptation, journey to the cross, death, and resurrection. It is a whirlwind in a sense. Yet even in the midst of all this, do not forget the fact that our King is one day returning to gather up His Church and bring us into His Kingdom. I encourage us all to take a moment each morning to remember that Christ will return. See if doing so allows you to cultivate an attitude of living in light of the second Advent of Jesus.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility so that on the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty: to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal: through Him who is alive and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

To the Faithful of the GAFCON movement and friends from Archbishop Nicholas Okoh, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria and Chairman, the GAFCON Primates Council.

My dear people of God,

As the season of Advent begins, I am calling on all of us who belong to the GAFCON movement to make this a time when we focus our prayer and our giving on the great work God has called us to do.

At the heart of our mission is the task of restoring the Bible to its rightful place at the centre of the Anglican Communion and if we really believe its message, then everything we do will be shaped by the promise of Christ's glorious, personal and universal return as Saviour, Judge and Lord. In an uncertain world, this is certain. The election of an outsider as the next President in the United States and the upheaval of the UK's vote to leave the European Union earlier this year remind us of the uncertainty of human rule and the urgency of proclaiming God's rule and kingdom.

So we must be ready and prepared, understanding the times, just as the Apostle Paul urges the Christians in Rome when he writes: 'the hour has come for you to wake out of sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed' (Romans 13:11).



At this critical point in the life of the Communion, we need your full support. Will it return to the ancient paths or sleepwalk into fatal compromise? By the grace of God, GAFCON is a movement of spiritual awakening in a Communion standing at the crossroads.

I am greatly encouraged by what has already been achieved. GAFCON pioneers new structures where old ones have failed, we are recognised as the leading voice for orthodoxy in the Communion, we are equipping key leaders, in the Jerusalem Statement and Declaration we have given the Communion a contemporary standard of historic Anglican confession and every five years the Anglican Communion has a taste of what it can become as faithful Anglicans gather in growing numbers from around the world in worship and fellowship around God's Word.

But what especially encourages me about GAFCON is the recovery of gospel courage and enterprise. Much of the Anglican Communion owes its existence to missionary pioneers who were ready to lay down their lives because they were confident in the promises of God, however difficult their circumstances. Now, the same courage is needed to guard that legacy and re-evangelise the increasingly secular West. Let me share just two examples.

Firstly, I thank God that Archbishop Greg Venables will be re-joining the GAFCON Primates Council now that he has been elected to serve again as the Primate of the Anglican Province of South America in succession to our greatly esteemed colleague Presiding Bishop Tito Zavala. His ministry demonstrates that courage which is so central to the GAFCON story. In his previous term as Primate, despite much opposition, Archbishop Venables bravely supported orthodox Anglicans in North America and stood with the Diocese of Recife in Brazil after it had to withdraw from the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil.

We are now seeing similar courage in England as GAFCON UK, led by Canon Andy Lines, endures hostility simply for speaking the truth about the increasing breakdown of church discipline in the Church of England. There are now clergy and bishops who openly take pride in their rejection of biblical preaching and have even launched a website to encourage the violation of the 1998 Lambeth Conference Resolution I.10 on human sexuality.

But more disturbing is the response of the Church of England at its highest level. The Secretary of the Archbishops' Council has written an [open letter](#) to Canon Lines in which he describes the Lambeth resolution as merely 'an important document in the history of the Anglican Communion'. But this is no ordinary resolution. It has been the standard appealed to again and again in Communion affairs and most recently in the [Communiqué](#) from the Sixth Global South Conference in Cairo which describes it as representing the 'clear teaching of Scripture'.

God has greatly blessed GAFCON, but there is much yet to do. My vision is for ordinary Anglicans in every continent to be fully alert and committed to this movement of the Holy Spirit to restore our Communion. So please visit the [GAFCON website](#) where you will find much to give thanks for and much to pray for. And please help boost our finances. You can donate online, either a one-off gift or regular donation, [here](#).

My brothers and sisters, may we long for our Lord's appearing and let us pray and let us give as those who will one day stand before him in the full splendour of his majesty and power.

The Most Revd Nicholas D. Okoh

Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria and Chairman, the GAFCON Primates Council

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS CLOTHING DRIVE



Thank you to all who participated in the clothing drive. We have received a check from Big Brothers Big Sisters in the amount of \$169.60!

HOUSE BLESSING: WE COVET YOUR PRAYERS!

You are invited to Fr. Matt and Liz's on January 2nd at 1:30 p.m.

We will have a house blessing, followed by hot drinks and refreshments.

6 Forest St., East Haven



PS: no gifts, please :) Everyone has done so much for us already; what we would like is your presence and prayers as we begin this new life chapter.

MEN'S SHELTER

We will be serving a meal at the Emergency Men's Shelter on Tuesday, December 27th at 5:45 p.m. The meal planned is baked ham, mashed potatoes, vegetable, salad, fresh fruit, dessert and beverage. We welcome anyone who would like to volunteer to cook and/or serve the meal. Please see Michelle Viesselman or Nancy Perez for more details.

Staple items which are always needed are:

Paper dessert plates, paper soup bowls, napkins, salad dressing, and disinfecting wipes.

BRANFORD CARES ANGEL TREE



The Branford Cares Angel Tree Project is underway. A tree is set up in the back of the church with the name, age and request of a recipient. Choose your card and bring with the corresponding gift by the deadline, Sunday, December 18th. Your past response to this project has been wonderful and greatly appreciated and we look forward to another successful year.

NEW REACH WOMEN'S SHELTER

Outreach is still collecting sheets and comforters for the New Reach Women's Shelter. In addition to this collection, Outreach will be making up bags which will include toiletries, a jewelry gift and a gift card to Walmart.

Here is a suggestion to anyone who would like to make a Christmas gift to someone in the shelter. How about a \$25 gift card from Stop & Shop or Big Y, which can be purchased here at the church. You may also want to purchase a Walmart gift card. Please see Karen Dattilo for more information.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

In addition to learning about Advent and the true meaning of Christmas, all of our kids in Sunday School are now preparing for the Christmas Pageant. Please plan on coming to the Christmas Eve service at 4:00 p.m. to see the children act out the Nativity Scene.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

03.....Melissa Potrepka
11.....Diane Spadacenta
15.....Joan Vulte
19.....Jane Sammarco
21.....Ryan Perez

Dec 01.....Women's Bible Study @ Kate's 7:00
Dec 04.....Outreach Meeting
Dec 06.....Evening Prayer
Dec 11.....Final Budget Meeting
Dec 11.....Christmas Caroling 3:30 pm
Dec 13....Advent Eucharist Svs 6:30...Choir 7:30
Dec 15.....Women's Bible Study @ Kate's 7:00
Dec 17.....Christmas Caroling 2:00 pm
Dec 18.....Vestry Meeting
Dec 20....Advent Eucharist Svs 6:30...Choir 7:30
Dec 22.....Women's Bible Study @ Kate's 7:00
Dec 24.....Christmas Eve Service 4:00
Dec 25.....Christmas Day Service 10:00
Dec 27....Men's Shelter 5:45 (no prayer meeting)

Please continue to pray for the healing of:

*Kate Heermans, *Lou Nacca, *BJ Petrosino, *Esther Tregoning, *St. Germaine Family, *Dick & Sally Carr, *McMahon Family, *Joy Cunningham, *Jim Cunningham, *Lenore Martorelli, *Diane Spadacenta, *Bob Bicknell, Sue Rinato, David Carr, Paula Krauss, Paul Spadacenta, Ken Souse, Joseph & Vera DeLucia, John A. Popolizio, Cynthia Seward, Pam Huntington, Patricia Esposito, Vincent Crudo, Alicia McCormick, Sally Lamb, Debbie DeFelice, Albert Petrosino, Lorie Canfora, Carol Ann Milo, Kathy Keoghan, Joseph, Carol, and Gina Popolizio, Michael Cacioppes, Diane Whelan, Carleen Cook, Pasqual Testa, David Dube, Rita Troshynski, Olympia D'Antonio, Steve Cignore, Sebastian Kunnappilly, Jerome Barretta, Abby LaBanca, Timothy McMahon, Rose Mattie, Marilyn Barretta, Karen Jacobowitz, Nicole Rodriquez, John Morin, Jason Crispino, Louis Acquarulo, John Giordano, The Riches Family, Rick Gonnevillle, Stanley Moniz, Danny Toce, Christine Zannelli, Marie Panosky, Alexis (Mason), Britaini Watterson, Deborah Hickman, Elise Nacca, Carmel Casabona, Susan Olster-Dauch, Belinda Jones, David Beyer, Rosemary DeMartino, Ray Boucher, Mary Cole, Francine Haddon, David Fryer and Ray, Sharon Bernardini & The Schroeder Family.

Individual prayer requests will be posted for a period of two months; after that, if not renewed, they will be removed.

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Services;
Sunday, 8:00 am & 10:00 am
9:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study

Clergy:
Rev. Matthew Mahan, Rector
Christ Church Anglican
Rev. Canon Moses Aderibole, Vicar
Church Of the Ressurrection

Email newsletter info/comments to:
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