

## Events this week:

- Tue 3:30 pm 'All Saints Alive' after school club  
at Great Witchingham School
- 7:30 pm Swannington singers' practise at The Firs
- Fri 4:15 pm Weston Longville choir practice in church
- 7:30 pm Great Witchingham Fuel Lands Allotment Trustees  
meeting at The Pightle
- Sat 3:00 pm Baptism of MATILDA ISOBEL COPEMAN  
at Weston Longville

## Next Sunday: Christ the King

- 8:00 am Holy Communion (1662) at Great Witchingham
- 9:00 am Morning Prayer for '**Shoebox Sunday**' at Ringland  
led by the churchwardens
- 10:00 am The Eucharist at Alderford
- 6:00 pm Evensong at Weston Longville

## Future events:

On **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>** a team from Swannington will be selling cakes, produce, cards and gifts in aid of church funds at **Aylsham market**, between **8:00 am and 12 noon**. Volunteers, either to help on the day or with things to sell, please contact Mary 869324 or Sally 260210.

On **Friday 5 December at 6:30 pm at St Mary, Great Witchingham** – Deanery Advent Carol Service. *Preacher, Bishop James Langstaff (Bishop of Lynn)* This service will include the dedication of electric heating and lighting (installed for the first time); thanksgiving for all who have contributed to this work; and special items performed by our benefice choir and by children from Great Witchingham School. Refreshments afterwards; please come and help to celebrate this major step in the life of this historic church!!



Sunday 16 November 2008  
**SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**

## Collect:

O God,  
whose blessed Son was manifested  
that he might destroy the works of the devil  
and make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:  
grant us, we beseech thee, that, having this hope,  
we may purify ourselves, even as he is pure,  
that when he shall appear again with power and great glory  
we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;  
where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Spirit,  
he liveth and reigneth, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 1.7 & 12-18

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.

Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

### **New Testament Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11**

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

### **Gospel: Matthew 25.14-30**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two

talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"



All weekday services will be at their usual times this week, except that there will be **no** Evening Prayer on Saturday at Swannington.

All this week we pray particularly for those who live and work at **Hengrave** in Swannington.

### **Please continue to pray for the sick & those in need:**

*Alic Bowen; Sheila Crane; Edward; George Williams*

**RIP** Ethel Raver

### **Saints this week:**

Mon Hugh, bishop of Lincoln (died 1200)

Wed Hilda, abbess of Whitby (died 680)

The collection of shoeboxes in support of **Operation Christmas Child** is now under way. Boxes can be delivered to the Rectory until **Tuesday**. They will then be taken to Ringland church for the service on Sunday 23rd before the boxes are sent on their way.