

Welcome to Catford Community Church

whether you're a regular or a visitor, you're very welcome

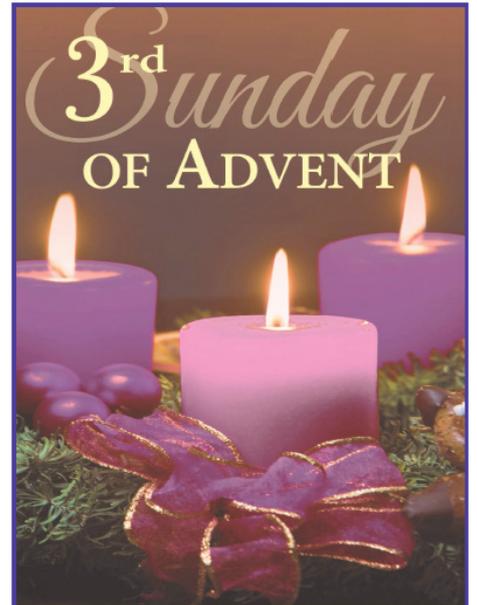
Malachi

Welcome to our morning service, the third Sunday in Advent, at Catford Community Church, which today is led by Ian Butcher with Margaret George leading worship.

While the theme of Advent is a focus on the coming of Jesus in three ways: his first, his present, and his final Advent, the readings for Gaudete Sunday deal with rejoicing in the Lord, as well as the mission of John the Baptist and his connection with Advent. The theologian Henri Nouwen described the difference between joy and happiness. While happiness is dependent on external conditions, joy is "the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing – sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death - can take that love away." Thus joy can be present even in the midst of sadness.

Stuart Checkley will be speaking on Malachi in the final of our series on the 'minor' prophets. Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament and is long-ing to see what God is going to do next, which makes it a great way to finish our lead up to Christmas.

After the service we'll be practising for the carol singing - do join us!



Minor Prophets Survey

We're interested in finding out how well our series on the minor prophets has worked for you over the last few weeks. We've set up a short survey that you can fill in online - see <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7C79YB5> or scan the QR code opposite.



The questions are:

1. Which of these prophets do you remember hearing a talk about?

Jonah	Micah	Habakkuk
Haggai	Zechariah	Malachi

2. What did you find out about the minor prophets that you didn't know before?

3. What message from the minor prophets do you remember the most?

4. What from this series has impacted your life and how?

Diary Dates

Sunday 16 December

FHCC Family Carol Service @ Sydenham High from 5pm

Monday 17 December

PlayPoint @ The Point from 1:30pm

Saturday 22 December

Carol Singing in Catford @ Costas @ 2:30pm

Sunday 23 December

Morning Carol Service @ 10:30 am @ The Calabash

Tuesday 25 December

Christmas Day Service from 10-11am @ The Point

Sunday 30 December

Morning Service @ 10:30 @ The Point

Monday 7 January 2019

Pub Nite @ London & Rye from 8pm

Saturday 19 January

Men's Breakfast @ Selco @ 8:30-9:30am

Craft Morning from 10.30am @ The Point



Catford
Community
Church

Transforming. Community. Life.

Services are very informal and all ages are welcome. At the end of the service please do stay and chat over tea or coffee. Children and young people will be going out during the service.

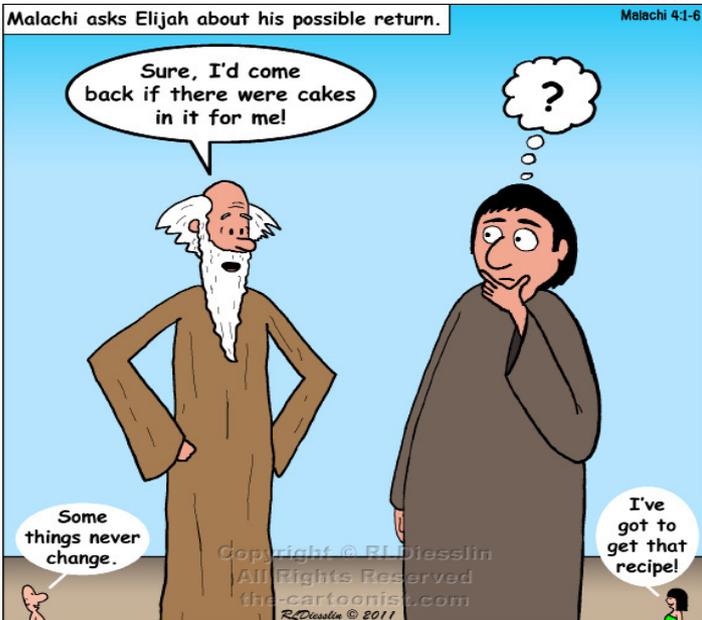
Our Leadership Team are:

Ian Butcher, Maureen Biddiscombe,
Margaret George and Kim Knappett.



Everyone's welcome this Christmas!

Next Sunday morning - 23rd December - is our Christmas carol service. We'll be have a turn-up-and-join-in Nativity, so come dressed as you favourite character if you like, as well as carols, readings, refreshments, and hopefully a visit from Father Christmas! Remember this is at 10.30am this year, not in the evening as previously. Before that, on Saturday 22nd December, we're off to sing carols at Costa Coffee - meet there at 2.30pm.



SUNDAY ROTA

Refreshments

16 Dec - Stephen & Elizabeth
 23 Dec - Sue A & Sue H
 30 Dec - Joe & Samuel

Welcoming

9 Dec - Mabel
 16 Dec - Carol
 30 Dec - @The Point

Please let Kim know about any changes or swaps



The book of Malachi is placed as the last book of the Prophets section, which also makes it the last book in the Old Testament in English Bibles. The Hebrew word Malachi simply means "My [that is, God's] messenger."

Malachi was a prophet of God sent to the Jews who had resettled in Judea and to all Israel in general, depicted as "the sons of Jacob" (Malachi 3:6). Toward the close of the book, it becomes clear that God is also speaking to all of humankind. He will not endure man's sins forever, and a day of judgment is coming. God also reveals through Malachi that He will hold back His wrath if people will return to Him.

When the Jews began returning from their 70 years of Babylonian captivity, God directed them to begin restoring Jerusalem and building the second temple, often called Zerubbabel's temple. The completion of the new temple by 516 B.C. allowed the Jews to carry out the ritual services of the sanctuary (Malachi 1:10; 3:10).

Many years later the walls of Jerusalem were also rebuilt under Nehemiah. Malachi appears to have been a contemporary of the governor Nehemiah, indicated by many common themes between the two writers.

Malachi the prophet was sent to assure his people that God still loved them, but He demanded honor, respect and faithfulness from them. God gave the people a warning that judgment would come to purge them of their sins unless they repented.

God then inspired Malachi to share a special promise God would grant to those who would be His faithful, obedient people. This reward is an eternal place in His Kingdom.

"Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on His name. 'They shall be Mine,' says the LORD of hosts, 'on the day that I make them My jewels. And I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him'" (Malachi 3:16-17).

More from the web: <https://lifehopeandtruth.com/prophesy/prophets/prophets-of-the-bible/malachi-the-prophet/>