



**St Andrew's Whittlesey, St Mary's Whittlesey,
St Thomas' Pondersbridge and Holy Trinity Coates**
Church of England Team Ministry:
www.wpcteam.org.uk

Sunday 8 November 2020

There will be no

Services in our parish churches until this current lock down is over

Service for 8 November The Third Sunday before Advent (Red)

09.30am	Zoom	Morning Praise
	Holy Trinity	No Service
	St Andrew's	No Service
11.00am	St Mary's	No Service
	St Thomas'	No Service

Amos 5:18-24 Psalm 70 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13

The Collect for The Third Sunday before Advent

God, our refuge and strength, bring near the day when wars shall cease and poverty and pain shall end, that earth may know the peace of heaven through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Monday 9 November- Saturday 14 November 2020

Monday	M P	Psalm 20	Daniel 4:19-37	Revelation ch. 5
Tuesday	M P	Psalm 21	Daniel 5:1-12	Revelation ch. 6
Wednesday	M P	Psalm 23	Daniel 5:13-31	Revelation 7:1-4, 9-17
Thursday	M P	Psalm 26	Daniel ch. 6	Revelation ch. 8
Friday	M P	Psalm 32	Daniel 7:1-14	Revelation 9:1-12
Saturday	M P	Psalm 33	Daniel 7:15-28	Revelation 9:13-21

Ministry Team Meeting will be held by Zoom

Wednesday 11 November 11.00am Act of Remembrance Coates War Memorial

Service for 15 November The Second Sunday before Advent (Red)

09.30am	Zoom	Morning Praise
	Holy Trinity	No Service
	St Andrew's	No Service
11.00am	St Mary's	No Service
6.00pm	St Thomas'	No Service

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 Psalm 90:1-8 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30

A Prayer for the world

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill. Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace. We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill. Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us. Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.
Amen

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus for daily use.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Ely Prayer

We praise and thank you, God of the journey, for all your gifts to us in the past. We look to you as fellow-traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead. Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety; give us grace to let go of all that holds us back; and grant us the courage to meet the new life you have promised us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Please remember in your prayers:

Those who are in residential homes, hospital or hospice & those known personally to us including:

Marie Rogers, Terry Randells, Emma Aindow-Gregory, Lizzie Monk, Joan Kefford, Cheryl Tyner, Judy Stewart, Richard Willows, Mavis Connor, Joyce Jackson

All NHS staff, care workers, emergency services, shop workers, funeral directors and all key workers.

The families and friends of those who have recently died:

John Curtis Hazel Sterling Bob Smee

Patricia Roughley Private funeral at Peterborough Crematorium 9 Nov 10.30am

Sylvia Elderkin Private funeral at Fenland Crematorium 9 Nov 2.30pm

Ray Fordham Private funeral at St Marys 12 Nov 12.30pm followed by burial at Whittlesey Cemetery

George Hudson Grave side service with burial Whittlesey Cemetery 20 Nov 11.00am

Anniversaries 8-14 November2020

St Andrew's: Hannah Paghett 8 Dora Edith Wilsoncroft 9 John William Barnes 11 Charles Edward Newman 12

St Thomas': William Neville Lant 9 Percy Thomas Everett 13 Herbert Savage 14

St Mary's: William Boon 12 Pamela Hailstone 13

Holy Trinity: 9 Ada Chester 12 Mary Ann Douse

To support you with your daily prayer and contact with the wider church please make use of the following websites.

Church of England. <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Prayer online. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

Diocese of Ely. <https://www.elydiocese.org/>

Ely Cathedral. <https://www.elycathedral.org/worship-at-home>

The diocesan prayer calendar can be found at

<https://www.elydiocese.org/growing-in-faith/prayer-calendar/>

Ministry Team - Contacts

ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST

REV'D MICHAEL JONES. - 01733-203588 - michael.jones123@sky.com

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS (READERS)

MR JOHN CHRISP 01733 844336 - johnchrisp@yahoo.com

MR ROGER BROWN 01733 202884 - rogerbrown41@hotmail.co.uk

MRS JANE RANDELLS 07870 942362 - jane.randells@gmail.com (Editor)

Notices

The First Sunday in December will be our service in which we collect toys for those children who would otherwise not have any. We ask that they are new and unwrapped, this year; we ask that they do not include soft toys, thank you for your support and understanding.

Wet Walnuts for sale once again Pat Marston is offering her walnuts at £4 a half kilo, all the proceeds will go to the Little Miracles in Peterborough who help Special Needs Children. If you would like a bag please ring 07443867424 to arrange collection

Bible Study We would like to start a Zoom Bible Study that would meet through the season of Advent, on a Wednesday evening. If you would be interested, please contact Laura Whitehouse or myself.

Regular Giving Thank you to all those who have maintained regular giving through a standing order, envelope scheme or in cash during this pandemic.

The Covid-19 outbreak has meant that there has been less money coming into the parishes of our benefice. Some of our fund-raising events haven't been allowed to happen and like other charities it has had a detrimental effect on our income. For those who attend our church services you will know that a collection as such is no longer taken during the service and instead offerings are left on an open plate. I'm sure you haven't overlooked that it's there!

For your information the Team has to try and meet a Ministry Share of £61,893. The cost of providing a full-time clergy post is £75,437. This is for the priest's stipend and all other associated costs including housing. Some subsidy is made from the diocesan investment income and also the March Deanery resulting in the Team's share of £61,893. At the end of September, we had paid £21,103 which leaves over £40,000 left to pay by the end of the year. Yes, it is a massive ask for us to pay that balance and being without an incumbent does not provide for any reduction. Our objective is to pay as much as we possibly can if only to show we can provide for a clergy post here when that happens.

If you would like to know more about regular giving by a bank standing order or an envelope scheme please speak to your parish treasurer or a churchwarden. Payments can also be made directly to the Team account.

Thank you for all you have given and will continue to give to support the ministry in our benefice. RB

An extract from the letter from both Arch Bishops and the Bishop of London sent to us from Bishop Dagmar

'Bearing in mind our primary vocation as the Church of Jesus Christ to pray and to serve we call upon the Church of England to make this month of lockdown a month of prayer. More than anything else, whatever the nation thinks, we know that we are in the faithful hands of the risen Christ who knows our weaknesses, tiredness and struggles and whose steadfast love endures for ever.'

REFLECTION for the 3rd Sunday before Advent.(1 Thessalonians 4.13-18. and Matt 25.1-13.)

It was a good thing that Jesus was not telling his parable of the 10 bridesmaids in Matt 25 today because there would have been no wedding, let alone a wedding feast. Coronavirus has put paid to that. So far from being ready to greet the bridegroom, there would have been no event at all.

Jesus was trying to prepare people for the coming of the New Kingdom of God as foretold by Him whereas Paul in Thessalonians on the other hand was talking about the second coming when the final trumpet sounds and the faithful dead will be resurrected and those living in Christ will be carried up into heaven. As believers we will all be gathered up by Him whatever our state. If not, we shall have "missed the boat" and there will be no hope in us. Somewhat foreboding, don't you think!

Here we are in lock-down again. Coronavirus, like a lurking spectre, seems to throw hope out of the window. However much we try to resume our normal Christian life by joining in fellowship face to face again in church and elsewhere and arranging the normal pattern of Services including Baptisms, Weddings and Civic Services like Remembrance this week-end, we seem to be thwarted. Thank goodness the wonders of modern technology allow us to see each other on Zoom and share together in worship. We are reaching the general public with an online recording of Whittlesey's Remembrance Service this Sunday at 2.30 pm through "Fenland Youth Radio" which you can google online and listen to. The Ministry Team has conducted assemblies and Harvest Festivals in the Primary Schools and further assemblies and Christingles are being scheduled to take place before Christmas. Through God's grace we still see people at the funerals we conduct and, even if we cannot now pass their thresholds to comfort them, at least we

can stand beside them when they are at their most dispirited and give them hope. We can all look after each other and our neighbours by lifting a telephone receiver or using other electronic means to talk to each other, raise each other's spirits with kindly and caring words, and give practical help where we can. Being a Christian is about love and concern and standing beside people when we are needed even if it can only be a virtual presence for now. We can always think of ways to communicate our care to people and our faith compels us to set time apart for worship, prayer and thanksgiving to God.

What an upside down world we live in! I wonder what Jesus makes of it? Certainly he turned the world upside down in his time on earth and still continues to do so. I am certain he wants us to go on doing just that in His name and that he believes we can be just as radical as Him in challenging injustice and bringing love and care to those who are denied it.

What matters even more today is that we have enough "oil" in our lamps to enter the new Kingdom of God which Jesus brings. He is the bridegroom whether there is a physical wedding or not and we need to be ready for Him. His promise of peace to us remains more strongly today in this time of difficulty. He is coming to us whether we like it or not and he wants us to have enough of that oil which stands for faith, love and Christian virtues. He wants to find us all ready and prepared, loving and compassionate bringing hope and joy into a suffering world.

He will never test us beyond the endurance which our faith gives us. The world may be topsy turvy now but if we stand fast in the faith it will turn into a world full of faith, hope and love (1 Corinthians 13). In our thoughts and prayers and our strivings for others around us we prepare ourselves to greet Him. We don't need to order more oil from Boilerjuice, we have enough of it already because we exhibit it in our lives. We do this principally by our faith in HIM knowing that hope exists through HIM and that by loving people through this unpleasant time, in God's good time, the threat will end. JC.