



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

**Sunday 15 November 2020**

**There will be no**

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

**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**

**The Collect for The Second Sunday before Advent**

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Monday 16 November- Saturday 21 November 2020**

Monday	M P	Psalm 47	Daniel 8:1-14	Revelation ch. 10
Tuesday	M P	Psalm 52	Daniel 8:15-27	Revelation 11:1-14
Wednesday	M P	Psalm 56	Daniel 9:1-19	Revelation 11:15-19
Thursday	M P	Psalm 62	Daniel 9:20-27	Revelation ch.12
Friday	M P	Psalm 63	Daniel 10:1-11:1	Revelation 13:1-10
Saturday	M P	Psalm 68	Daniel ch. 12	Revelation 13:11-18

**Ministry Team Meeting** will be held by Zoom

**Service for 22 November Christ the King (Red)**

09.30am	Zoom	Morning Praise
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Ezekiel 34:11-16. 20-24 Psalm 95:1-7 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46

**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:**

**Patricia Roughley Sylvia Elderkin Ray Fordham**

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

### Anniversaries 15-21 November2020

**St Andrew's:** Kathleen Turner 20 Diana Harding 21

**St Thomas':**

**St Mary's:** Neil Timms 20 Maud Mary Wills 20

**Holy Trinity:** Sidney James Dolby 16 Charles John Bagnall 18

**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](mailto:michael.jones123@sky.com)

#### LICENSED LAY MINISTERS (READERS)

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If there is anything that we can do to help, listen, collect something, pray, that will help you through this time please be assured that we will do our very best, please use contacts above.

### 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** There will be a Zoom Bible Study that will meet through the season of Advent, on a Wednesday evenings starting on 3Dec. There are seven on the list to attend at the moment. If you would be interested, please contact Laura Whitehouse or myself.

**Food Bank Boxes** We were going to start collecting contributions towards the busy food bank services leading up to and over Christmas, we cannot do that for the rest of this month, I have been assured that all of our supermarkets have boxes, please put something in to help those not managing as well as we might be. Thank you so much

**Benefice Diary** As previously a benefice diary is in place so that services, meetings and events can be recorded centrally for the four parishes. This also helps to avoid a clash of events. In these strange and unusual times, the diary is quite empty in places but has lots of crossing out as baptisms and weddings are postponed and now this month's Sunday services in church cancelled. Please be aware of the existence of the benefice diary and if meetings or events are being planned would you kindly let me know (rogerbrown41@hotmail.co.uk 01733 202884) so that I can keep the diary up to date please and feed the appropriate information into the weekly Newsletter Thank you

**Mission & Ministry Interim Support** In the Diocese of Ely we have small team responsible for developing Mission and Ministry across the Diocese, working with a variety of churches in a number of ways to help their leadership teams, PCCs, and congregations develop their missional heart, vision and life. Since there has been a temporary suspension of appointments to a number of parishes across the Diocese, we have developed this ministry further to lend support in a more focused and extended manner to particular place. One of those places is the Benefice and Team Ministry of Whittlesey St Andrew and St Mary, Pondersbridge and Coates.

My name is Rev'd Phil Marsh, and I am pleased, over the coming months, to be heading up the support of your four churches in Coates, Pondersbridge and Whittlesey. I've already begun to meet with Rev'd Mike Jones, and our LLM's Roger Brown, John Crisp and Jane Randells and also with the Church Wardens across the team. Before coming to Ely Diocese I was a Vicar in Nottingham, and a chaplain to a local secondary school, and have also ministered in Peterborough and Wales. I'm married with 5 kids in age from 12 to 23, and we live over in Little Downham, near Ely.

Although I am not in post in Whittlesey as Incumbent, I am intending to bring the ministry we offer across the Diocese in a focused manner to the Whittlesey team, and will be investing time and energy during this interim period, in working among you and alongside you as we explore together the plans and purposes that God has for Pondersbridge, Coates and Whittlesey. Where this season will take us and you as four churches we do not yet know. But I believe that together we will discover that which God has in store. This may seem to be an unconventional approach that varies from past experiences of interregnums, but we will use this space and period of time as a measured breath, to take stock, to celebrate and build on what is good, and to discover the new things that God is calling St Andrew's, St Thomas', Holy Trinity and St Mary's into in the years ahead.

I am looking forward to meeting with you all in due time and will give some thought to how we might arrange this in the weeks ahead, but for now you are all very much in my prayers, and I give thanks for the opportunity this engagement give us to discern God's leading in your parishes together. In Christ Jesus, your fellow co-worker for the Gospel, Phil.

**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.'*

**2 Before Advent 2020 Zephaniah 1. 7:12-end 1Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30**

Some years ago now, Terry and I went to the funeral of our friend Chris; it was held in a Baptist Church and was very different to any funeral that I have been to in any Anglican Church. There were four rousing hymns which were sung loudly, there was no liturgy at all, and there were two testimonials and a sermon all of which preached the Gospel and spoke of the faith that Chris and his wife Fee shared. Chris was one of those guys who had no fear when it came to talking about his faith and what the Lord had done in his life. A couple of the topics that he could talk about with no notes and with authority were the small matters of creation and the end times.

Chris held the opinion that if there was no Garden of Eden, no temptation and hence no fall from grace then there would have not have been any need for God to come to us as Man for our redemption. He could loose me within moments talking of what was meant in various passages in the Book of Revelation. Why mention him today? Well, Zephaniah, another of those Old Testament prophets I love to talk about, especially chosen by God to give folks a message was trying to tell them that God was going to have a good clear up session, like a spring clean, God wanted to get his people ready for something amazing. The judgements that we hear about here are getting the nation ready for salvation.

What an amazing word, not one we hear often nowadays, salvation, I looked it up, the act of saving; the means of preservation from any serious evil; the saving of man from the power and penalty of sin, the conferring of eternal happiness. I think we should hear more of that word, salvation. I wonder which is worse, to be complacent, like "wine left on its dregs" or to be one of those who "sins against the Lord"? Which punishment given in these passages would be the lesser of the two evils?

Could we be counted amongst the complacent today, we know and love the living God; we know that we as believers are assured salvation so maybe it is OK for us to sit back and to take it easy for a while? The words spoken by the prophet were written as poetry so there is a lot of symbolism, but even so, it does not make easy reading, even today. The reading from Thessalonians tells us that the "day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night"; could we be having these readings just before the season of Advent starts to remind us that the Lord will be coming back? This will be the beginning of the end as we know it, here comes that word again, salvation.

One of the things that we are told is going to happen as the Lord returns is that we are going to be asked to account for what we have done with those things and talents that we have been given. So, if Jesus came back today what would you be telling Him? "Sorry Lord I was too timid to stand up and speak or do anything in front of anyone, I wasn't as good at things as everyone else". Or maybe "I knew that you wouldn't have wanted me to get out of my comfort zone Lord, I knew that I was to keep that skill just for myself"!

Maybe we are both complacent and sinners, it just depends on the day and the time that we are asked. Do we live each day as if it could be our last? Do we live each day as though it could be the last chance for those around us to hear about the love that the Lord has for them? I know that I have not spoken out for the Lord as often as my friend Chris did and I pray that we are all given the courage to do so as the opportunities present themselves

I am afraid that once again I have no comfortable stories or anecdotes, let alone jokes for you; this is really serious stuff, there is no getting away from the fact that there are fewer and fewer of us that know the message. There are fewer and fewer of us that know the truth of the matter.

There are folks out there that do not know that they are facing eternity separated from the loving God that created them and gave them the skills, talents that they have. We may not have very long, Jesus could very easily come back this very afternoon, and what are we going to do about it? I know what one or two of you think, that it is all a waste of time, but hear this if you hear nothing else, Paul pleads with the Thessalonians to "encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing".

Are we doing that, are we encouraging and building each other up? Paul said a couple of verses earlier, "For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ". This is the salvation that Zephaniah was trying to tell the people about all those years before Jesus came into the world. Here we are at the beginning of the twenty-first century still trying to get a people who feel that they are safe with their material possessions and have no need to give thanks or praise to their creator and provider.

I do believe that God is indeed a loving God, but, in the last days there will be judgement, there will be those that are thrown out as was the worthless servant, and there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. What I want you to think about today and onwards please is, are you and I going to be invited in as good and faithful servants and given even more wonderful things than we have already or are we indeed going to get thrown out for eternity? Amen