



**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 29 November 2020

There will be no

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

Service for 29 November 1st Sunday of Advent - Purple

09.30am Zoom Morning Praise
10.30-12.00am Private Prayer at Holy Trinity Coates

Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-8 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

Collect

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Monday 30 November- Saturday 5 December 2020

Monday	M P	Psalm 47	Ezekiel 47:1-12	John 12:20-32
Tuesday	M P	Psalm 80	Isaiah 43:1-13	Revelation 20
Wednesday	M P	Psalm 7	Isaiah 43:14-28	Revelation 21:1-8
Thursday	M P	Psalm 42	Isaiah 44:1-8	Revelation 21:9-21
Friday	M P	Psalm 25	Isaiah 44:9-23	Revelation 21:22-22:5
Saturday	M P	Psalm 9	Isaiah 44:24-45:13	Revelation 22:6-21

Ministry Team Meeting will be held by Zoom

Service for 6 December 2nd Sunday of Advent - Purple

09.30am Zoom Morning Praise
St Andrews Holy Communion
Holy Trinity Morning Praise
11.00am St Marys Holy Communion
St Thomas' Morning Praise

Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 86:1-2.8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

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, Mary Widgery

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:

Eddy Twelvetree Peterborough Crematorium 1 Dec 10.30am (Arthur Edward Donald Twelvetree)
Juan {June} Savage St Mary's 2.15pm 2 December followed by cremation at Fenland Crematorium
Roy Baxter St Mary's 1.00pm 4 December followed by burial at Thorney Cemetery

Anniversaries 30 November – 5 December 2020

St Andrew's: John Cyril Duddington 30 Lorenz Renges 4th

St Thomas':

St Mary's: John Donald Gray 1 George Richard Long 4 Anne Schofield Bates 5

Holy Trinity:

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)

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

PCC meeting Holy Trinity there will be a PCC meeting, if Covid restrictions have been eased on Thursday 3rd December at Holy Trinity Coates 11.00am; masks are to be worn and distancing procedures will be in place.

PCC meeting St Andrew's there will be a PCC meeting by zoom at 7.30pm

Newsletter - Home Delivery Home delivery of the weekly Newsletter is available for anyone who is unable to receive this by electronic mail or for those who prefer to have a paper copy. If you know of anyone who would like a copy of the Newsletter delivered please contact Roger Brown (202884) with name and address. Thank you.

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. Last year the gifts were taken by Rev'd Nigel to the Children's Centre that was based at New Road School.

Bible Study There will be a Zoom Bible Study that will meet through the season of Advent, on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm starting on 2 Dec. There are eight on the list to attend at the moment. If you would be interested please contact Laura Whitehouse or myself. JR

Newsletter and Communications Home delivery of the weekly Newsletter is available for anyone who is unable to receive this by electronic mail or for those who prefer to have a paper copy. If you know of anyone who would like a copy of the Newsletter delivered please contact me, Roger Brown (202884) with name and address. Thank you. If you receive the Newsletter by email and then print it for another person please be good enough to let us know by sending me (rogerbrown41@hotmail.co.uk) their name and address. We would also like to hear from you if you receive electronic communications from us but are unable to access Zoom for services and meetings. Again, please let me know so that we can build a picture of how best to serve you all, Many Thanks.

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

Getting to know you

It has been my pleasure to meet on zoom, for virtual coffee with our dedicated team of church wardens, and Ministry team over the last three weeks. The leadership and investment they are making in sustaining and leading the church is a real gift and the energy, shared skill and imagination among them has been really inspiring. One of the things they have helped me to do is to begin to get a balcony view of the four congregations and the communities they serve, and I am really eager to get to know you as congregations myself, and hear your view of our churches and communities as we travel together during this extended season of Covid and interregnum.

To that end I am hosting a couple of occasions this week to meet more widely with members of our congregations on zoom for a virtual coffee, or evening gathering. These are open to anyone from our churches who would like to come along, and I have included the details of that below, and will send out links via email as we have been doing for the online service.

I am aware that not everybody is able to connect to zoom or has internet access, and I am also keen to connect with you as well. If you would like to meet over the telephone rather than join a zoom, please do let Jane Randells know who I have asked to collate the names and numbers of those who would like to explore this option with me.

One of the things I've heard about so far is the fantastic range of Christmas services that the congregations and communities have enjoyed recent and past years. Of course this year limitations on large gatherings, and the steps needed to keep people safe, make those large services difficult, and the Ministry Team have wisely decided that some of the Christmas services we love and enjoy we are not able to run this year, which in part is testament to just how popular they have been and how well they have connected with the wider community. However we still want to be able to share the comfort and Joy of the Christmas season with one another, with families, neighbours and friends. In order to still be able to do this, we are going to do two things.

Firstly Rev'd Michael is still going to lead our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day communion services, subject to the Governments Winter Covid plan.

*Secondly we are going to explore two special services on zoom for Christmas. The first will be an online carol service, on **Saturday the 19th December** at 7pm, and the second will be an online Nativity and crib service on **Sunday 20th December at 4pm**. We will send out some more details over the next couple of weeks, and do it in a way that you can then share that online invite with neighbours, family, friends and work colleagues, and so I want to encourage those of you able to attend online to think about who you could invite. It will be different than we have done before, but we may find something new in the midst of it.*

Again I am painfully aware that not everyone is able to join online services, so we will also be exploring things that we can do for those unable to join in with online events, and ways in which we can all connect with the advent and Christmas Season in our own homes. One of those is a telephone Advents service which I have included details of below.

We have a great hope to proclaim and share. This advent season as we look for the return of Christ, and prepare to celebrate with glad remembrance his birth, may we all find new comfort and new joy in Jesus, and may we find new ways of sharing that comfort and joy with those around us.

In Christ Jesus, your fellow traveller on the way, Phil. (Rev'd Phil Marsh)

Getting to know you – a Zoom Coffee morning and an Evening gathering

Dates: Tuesday 8th December 11:00-12:00am

Wednesday 9th December 7:30-8:30pm

These will be zoom meetings and joining details will be sent out by email.

Online Christmas Services -save the date!

Saturday the 19th December at 7pm – Online Carol Service

Sunday 20th December at 4pm – Crib and Nativity service

Advent Telephone Service – Daily Hope – 0800 804 8044

This FREE phoneline – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

When you call you will hear a greeting from Archbishop Justin Welby, and will hear the options to listen to a variety of material including a message from the Archbishop, a weekly advent reflection, morning and evening prayers, and even some ideas on how to exercise in our armchairs!!

Here is a list of the options currently available on the phone line;

Press * to listen to Archbishop Justin Welby 's message.

Press 1 - to listen to 'Hymns we Love' (this is a series of short talks based on well-loved hymns) .

Press 2 - to listen to our Hymn Line (these are recordings of different hymns on a daily loop).

Press 3 - to listen to a new series of weekly reflections.

Press 4 - to listen to our chair exercises on the phone to help us keep physically fit.

Otherwise, please press 5 for more options .

Press 6 - to listen to the Church of England's weekly service.

Press 7 - to join in with traditional morning and evening prayers.

Press 8 - for further information about other support services.

Press 9 - to listen to the Mother's Union midday prayers.

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.'

Advent Sunday (Year B). Mark 13.24-37. Theme “ KEEP AWAKE”

In Jesus' time on earth, the Jewish world was in crisis. The Romans cruelly occupied Israel and Judah, and the whole of the Middle East, were content to allow wicked rulers like Herod Antipas to rule corruptly and the Temple Authorities to rule in religious matters unjustly provided they got their heavy taxes from their subject people without resistance.

Society was breaking down in all sorts of ways. Jewish men were acting against God's law divorcing their wives with a whim showing no good reason under Mosaic Law. The poor and needy were neglected and looked down upon as worthless. The sick, such as the lepers were banished to live in caves unloved and untreated and often left to die of starvation if no-one brought them food, and others to beg for food. It was a loveless society into which Jesus was born and he came with a message of hope, love and peace healing the sick and bringing news of the new Kingdom of God long awaited, and look what they did to Him!!

We are also living in a time of crisis today. The Covid-19 virus effectively stops our normal way of life and takes away our freedoms. A black man in police custody dies as a result of abuse, lock-down shows just how badly we are polluting the atmosphere since while fuel guzzling motor vehicles are off the road the air becomes clean, there is renewed interest in apologising for our slave trade past and parallels are drawn with modern day racism, sex and commercial slavery, desperate refugees drown at sea as a result of ruthless traffickers, innocent men, women and children die as a result of frequent horrible wars in Syria, Yemen and so many other countries. Not least of all we are confronted with the collapse of our country's commercial system as a result of coronavirus which we will be incapable of repairing until there are proved and tested vaccines. Never was there a time in my personal experience when we needed God more.

It is a time for more than a prayer for effective vaccines! It is a time for submitting our very selves to God in prayer and offering our lives of service more than ever for the future of mankind. We don't want a world of wickedness, abuse and despair to continue. We call upon Him to not find us wanting in His service. We call upon our Lord in the words of the hymn “ O Come, O Come Emmanuel” bring your Kingdom of love, justice and peace closer to us.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus affirms that God's new time is coming quoting words from the vision of Daniel, the prophet, a powerful poetic image of the coming of God “ the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory at the final day of judgement. He describes how the sun, the moon and the stars, the lights by which people habitually live will grow dark in comparison to the dazzling brightness of the Son of Man who will emerge not from earth, but from heaven.

We don't know when this will be but we need to be ready, to be on our guard against complacency, to stay awake and ready to greet Him living our lives loving God and our fellow human beings, so that when He comes he will not find us wanting.

Advent is about revival, rejecting apathy and sluggishness in our lives, being hopeful and proactive in our mission for God, staying awake at all times with Jesus foremost in our lives. Just like the disciples at the garden of Gethemane we must not let ourselves fall asleep and like the foolish bridesmaids we must always have sufficient oil in our lamps. So let us now pray to shape our lives for the future, be innovative in our mission and as a Christian Community show that we are truly alive in Christ, constantly stepping up our game to serve Him.
John Chrisp.