



**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 6 December 2020

Service for 6 December 2nd Sunday of Advent - Purple

09.30am	Zoom	Morning Praise
	St Andrews	No Service-floors under repair
	Holy Trinity	Morning Praise
11.00am	St Marys	Holy Communion - Followed by Baptism of Finley Reuben Turner 1.00pm
	St Thomas'	Morning Praise

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

Collect

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

Monday 7 December- Saturday 12 December 2020

Monday	M P	Psalm 44	Isaiah 45:14-25	1 Thessalonians 1
Tuesday	M P	Psalm 56	Isaiah 46	1 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Wednesday	M P	Psalm 62	Isaiah 47	1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
Thursday	M P	Psalm 54	Isaiah 48:1-11	1 Thessalonians 3
Friday	M P	Psalm 86	Isaiah 48:12-22	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12
Saturday	M P	Psalm 145	Isaiah 49:1-13	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Ministry Team Meeting will be held by Zoom on Tuesday starting with Morning Prayer at 9.30am

Service for 13 December 3 Sunday of Advent - Purple

09.30am	Zoom	Morning Praise
	St Andrews	Morning Praise at St Andrew's Hall, Parkinson's Lane
	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
11.00am	St Marys	Holy Communion – Followed by Baptism of Esme Louisa Jean Clarke 1.00pm
	St Thomas'	No Service

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8,19-28

School Services-John Chrisp LLM

Coates Primary School Zoom Assembly 10 December 2.55pm
Park Lane Primary School Zoom Christingle 16 December 11.00am
New Road Primary School Zoom Christingle 17 December 11.00am
Coates Primary School Zoom Christingle 18 December 10.00am

Christmas Services

19 December Zoom Carol Service 7.00pm
20 December On line Nativity 4.00pm

24 December Christmas Eve

St Thomas' 10.00pm Holy Communion

St Mary's 11.00pm Holy Communion

Zoom 10.00pm Compline/Evening Prayer

25 December Christmas Day

Holy Trinity 9.30am Holy Communion

Zoom 9.30am Morning Praise please have a gift open to show one another

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, Toby Clark

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 Juan {June} Savage Roy Baxter

Roger Sutton St Mary's 12.45pm 11 December followed by burial at Whittlesey Cemetery

Anniversaries 7 December – 12 December 2020

St Andrew's: Florence Louisa Few 7 Louie Bingham 7 Stanley Arthur Pikett 7 Michael John Blake 8
Wilfred Harris 9 Frederick David Hobbs 10 Althea Faith Oldfield 10 Kenneth Edward Dunkling 11
Florence Marriott 12

St Thomas':

St Mary's: Albert Edward Gale 11 Terry (Terence) Walter Lutkin 11

Holy Trinity: Catherine Mary Turner 10 Dorothy May Facey 10 Kathleen Mary Maslem 12

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)

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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

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, we have been unable to contact them and are approaching the Women's shelter near Cambridge.

Bible Study There is a Zoom Bible Study that is meeting through the season of Advent, on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. There are twelve on the list to attend at the moment, each evening is independent of the others so do pop in and out as suits you., If you would be interested please contact Laura Whitehouse or myself. JR

Walnut Sales Pat Marston has sent a cheque to Little Miracles in Peterborough to the value of £320, she asked that her thanks are passed to all who were able to help raise this fantastic total, thank you

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 ending 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

Coming up this week are two opportunities for me 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.

Please notice the change of the evening date. Both of these will now happen on Tuesday, one in the morning and one in the evening. If you can't make either of those, please do not worry as there will be other occasions in the future.

If you can't connect to zoom, please remember that 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.

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

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

Tuesday 8th December 7:30-8:30pm **Please note the change of date**

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

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

Advent Telephone Service – Daily Hope – 0800 804 8044

This FREE phonenumber – 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.

REFLECTION for the 2nd Sunday of Advent. (Mark1:1-8, Isaiah 40:1-11)

Advent. It is the hush in the theatre between the house lights going down and the curtain going up. It is the anticipation of arrival.

When John the Baptist turns up, he is at great pains to declare that it is not he that everyone has been waiting for. In our Gospel reading today John the Baptist declares there is one who will come after him, the strap of whose sandals he is not worthy to untie! Mark in writing about John quotes the prophet Isaiah, locating John the Baptist as the messenger the herald, the one who prepares the way for God's coming and promised saviour. Later, in John's gospel, John the Baptist describes himself as a 'Best-Man', and Jesus as the Bridegroom.

²⁹ At a wedding the groom is the one who gets married. The best man is glad just to be there and to hear the groom's voice. That's why I am so glad. ³⁰ Jesus must become more important, while I become less important. (John 3:29-30)

John the Baptist constantly steps backwards in order to point others to Jesus, to point others to the Good News that is coming their way! I can't help but reflect personally this week as we look to John the Baptist who was so obviously not the main event & so obviously willing to simply prepare the way for another. In some ways that mirrors my role as I travel with you in this season. In the future you will have a Vicar again, but it is not me. I am like the best man, simply helping to prepare the way. In truth, even your next vicar isn't the Bridegroom. For as a church, together, it is you who are the bride, and Christ the bridegroom. I reckon any vicar, in any church is always only helping the bride of Christ prepare to meet her bridegroom, Jesus.

Advent itself is a time of preparation to meet with Christ. It reminds us that Jesus has promised to return, and that when he does he has urged us to be ready and to not be found sleeping. But what about everyone else? How will they know? How will they be ready? Well of course that too is our role as church. To share in the task together of pointing others towards the coming of Jesus. You too are in the role of best men to Jesus as the groom.

John's pattern of giving himself over to the service of Christ, for the sake of others, that they may also be ready to meet with Jesus is a pattern for us all. It will be a pattern for your next vicar to follow as they serve you and the community. It is a pattern for me to follow as I serve you and your next vicar and help you get ready for that in the future. And it is a pattern for us all to follow, as we serve the communities, friends, neighbours and families around us. We all get to play our parts in pointing to the one whose sandals we aren't worthy to untie, but it is come that all may know the precious love, grace and salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ. To quote John the Baptist's example, He (Jesus) must increase, and we must decrease.

Who have you noticed around you that you might be able to point towards Jesus? Who are the people you'd love to come to know Him? Who are the people you notice who sometimes talk with you about your faith? Who are the people around you who are open to sharing their life with you, and open to you sharing your life with them?

May our preparations this advent be not just about ourselves, but instead involve us in giving ourselves over more fully to the serving of others around us, in the task of making Jesus known, that all may be ready to meet Him when the bridegroom comes in glory.

Amen.

Phil Marsh.