



**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 13 December 2020

Service for 13 December 3 Sunday of Advent - Purple

09.30am	Zoom	Morning Praise
	St Andrews	In the Church Hall Morning Praise
	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
11.00am	St Marys	Holy Communion – Followed by Baptism of Esme Louisa Jean Clarke 1.00pm
6.00pm	St Thomas'	Holy Communion

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

Collect God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Monday 14 December- Saturday 19 December 2020

Monday	M P	Psalm 40	Isaiah 49:14-25	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Tuesday	M P	Psalm 70	Isaiah 50	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
Wednesday	M P	Psalm 75	Isaiah 51:1-8	2 Thessalonians 1
Thursday	M P	Psalm 76	Isaiah 51:9-16	2 Thessalonians 2
Friday	M P	Psalm 98	Isaiah 51:17-23	2 Thessalonians 3
Saturday	M P	Psalm 146	Isaiah 52:1-12	Jude

Midweek Communion

Holy Communion will be celebrated at St Mary's on Thursday 17th 09.15am

Service for 20 December 4 Sunday of Advent - Purple

09.30am	Zoom	Morning Praise
	St Andrews	In the Church Hall Holy Communion
	Holy Trinity	Morning Praise
11.00am	St Marys	Holy Communion
	St Thomas'	Morning Praise
4.00pm	Zoom	Crib and Nativity Service

2 Samuel 7:1-11.16 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

School Services-John Chrisp LLM

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 Zoom Crib and 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

27 December First after Christmas

Zoom 9.30am Morning Praise

St Mary's 11.00am Holy Communion

31 December Mid week Communion at St Mary's at 09.15am

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, Anne Howell

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:

Roger Sutton

George Canavan 21 December St Mary's 11.00am followed by burial at Whittlesey Cemetery

Phyllis Powell 23 December Fenland Crematorium 10.30am

John (Jack) Feary 23 December Fenland Crematorium 1.30pm

Barbara Richardson 5 January St Mary's 11.00am followed by burial at Whittlesey Cemetery

Anniversaries 13 December – 19 December 2020

St Andrew's: Leonard Marriott 13 Edward Henry Redhead 14 Norman David Locke 14
Dylan Christopher Jack Hockley 14 Bertie Smith 16 Wallace David Charles Locke 17
John Ernest Arthur Porter 17 Walter Leslie Brown 18

St Thomas':

Holy Trinity: Harriet Garner 13 Gwendoline Mary Chapman 13

St Mary's: Stanley Springett 13 John Clifford Kennaugh 13 Robert John Shanks 16 Archibald Robert Coxell 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

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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

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

Midweek Communion Services will be held in St Mary's while St Andrew's is fixing the floor, please note dates and times above, there will be no 09.15am service on 24th December, Christmas Eve. From January 6th there will be a midweek service at Holy Trinity at 9.15am on Wednesdays.

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

Additions to Newsletter If you have anything that you would like to share with members of our congregations through the Newsletter, please send to Jane our editor. It may be something in the parish you would like everyone to know about or perhaps something more personal - things that have encouraged me, or places where I have seen God at work. We would love to hear from you.

Getting to know you – It was lovely to meet with members of all four of our churches and of our online congregation last week, and I'd love to continue to provide the opportunity for folk to meet with me and each other in this way. I'm going to switch the days around this week in case Tuesday wasn't good for everyone. Many thanks to the eagle eyed who spotted the date error!! I'll do better this time! These opportunities for me to meet more widely with members of our congregations on zoom for a virtual coffee, or evening gathering are open to anyone connected with our congregations who would like to come along. Last week some of the things we talked about were some of the different events that have been held in church over the years, engagement with schools, I learnt about Paul's enormous plum puddings, the children's corner that Thomas has invited me to see, and we talked about how we might encourage people to join in with church activities. This week I will host a zoom coffee morning on **Wednesday 16th at 10am**, and an afternoon coffee on **Thursday 17th at 4pm**. We will send out links for the zoom room via email as we have been doing for the online service. 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. (Phil Marsh)

Ely Cathedral Christingle Service

It is such a shame to not be able to host live Christingle services in our churches this year. However, the Bishop of Ely is hosting the Cathedral Christingle service online this year in support of The Children's Society, with the **Bishop of Ely on 14th December** at 1.30pm. The virtual service will be live streamed via the cathedral website. We will send around the link by email, and if we can find a way to watch the service together we'll give that a go too!!

Reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent. (John1.6-8 &19-28).

We don't like waiting. We want to get on with things. We look for ways of removing obstacles in our path which prevent us from being able to get where we want to go. However, God tells us that we need to pray about our problems and he will bring us an answer in His good time.

In Isaiah 40.1-11, we read of the Children of Israel after generations in captivity being restored to their beloved Zion which is in ruins and needs to be rebuilt. The prophesy comes "Comfort, O comfort my people" says our God." A voice cries in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, every mountain or hill made low, the uneven ground shall become level and the rough places a plain." God means us to be brought home to him where we belong, and like a shepherd caring for his sheep, as a loving Father, He will feed us. "Lift up your voices with strength, shout it from the highest mountain that the Lord is your God". And so we are encouraged to keep faith and proclaim our God, and he then promises to bring us home comfortably on a 6 lane smooth and level highway.

In Isaiah 61.1-4 & 8-11, this Sunday's Old Testament Reading, we are reminded of Jesus picking up and reading the Isaiah Scroll in the Synagogue in his home town of Nazareth. He reads "The spirit of God is upon ME, because He has anointed ME; He has sent ME to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn". Jesus, as he reads, is looking for the restoration of Israel, to build for them through his example and sacrifice a right relationship with God. So what has this got to do with waiting? Jesus is saying that after centuries of waiting this prophesy from Isaiah has been fulfilled through Him. He is the long awaited Messiah come to bring us out of the captivity of sin, to wash us clean through His blood and bring us to God the Father.

The Israelites spent 40 years in the desert going round and around in circles on their way from Egypt to the promised land of Canaan, a journey which even in those days would have only taken 3 or 4 weeks on foot. That was real perseverance notwithstanding their rebelliousness at times and some incredible waiting for the promise to be fulfilled!

Later in their history, they spent decades in captivity in Babylon and eventually returned to build up a destroyed Jerusalem again. They had paid their penalty for estranging themselves from God and were redeemed, but what a wait they had!

John the Baptist, we read in John's Gospel, is waiting for Jesus; he is that voice foretold by Isaiah crying in the wilderness, make straight a way for the Lord. When he sees Him, he points at Jesus as the promised one, the Messiah, and the waiting is over.

In this Advent Season, we are reminded to pray and follow the practice of waiting, patiently trusting in God knowing that God's promise to us is fulfilled on Christmas Day, when the Word is made flesh and Jesus is born in our hearts all over again for us, coming with love, teaching us how to live, giving himself for us and filling our hearts with joy and hope.

John.

Late late news All of the donations gathered together by you wonderful people on Sunday 6th December have been taken to the amazing Help Whittlesey, these are the folk who "did the poppies", they have taken gifts into the folks in our nursing homes and they are supporting many of our local families through these difficult times. The lady I dropped off St Mary's and St Andrew's, John Chrisp had done Holy Trinity and St Thomas' was so excited to receive our donations, she couldn't stop thanking us. Thank you from the bottom of your Ministry Team's heart. God Bless you as you have blessed those who will enjoy opening some gifts on Christmas day. JR