

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering
'Growing God's Kingdom'



Sunday worship and weekly news
29 November 2020

ADVENT I
Welcome everyone

We welcome via our YouTube link
Rev'd Canon Dr Sandra Millar

The dictionary definition of 'Advent' tells us it is, 'the anticipated coming of our Saviour'.



Throughout these four weeks preparations will be made, in each of our homes, to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Cards will be written and sent, meals will be planned and

hopefully arrangements can be made to either travel or receive travellers to help us celebrate.

The birth of any baby should be celebrated, but I am glad Jesus didn't stay as a baby. The Son of God wilfully sacrificed His life for our sakes so that we could be reconciled with His Father.

The Gospel reading today tells of what many will interpret as frightening events before His second coming. We, however, should celebrate because it foretells, 'the anticipated coming of our Saviour'.

Pete Best

Christmas Hampers 2020

As a Tuffley church and community project, we would like to provide Christmas hampers for needy local families. The hampers will be full of Christmas treats which we hope to deliver as early as possible to ease the financial burden on these families.

If you can help...

Please visit the website www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

At the top of the screen you will find 'Christmas Hampers'. Clicking on this title will display a leaflet showing what items we are seeking to provide. If you would rather give financially please contact Helen.

As the church is closed **Helen** is prepared to collect any donations on the **30th November and 1st December**. Please let Helen know if you wish her to collect from you.

Great Expectations

Processional Hymn

O come, O come Emmanuel

Redeem thy captive Israel,
That into exile drear is gone,
Far from the face of God's dear son.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou branch of Jesse, draw
The quarry from the lion's claw;
From the dread caverns of the grave,
From nether hell, thy people save.

Refrain

O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright.
Pour on our souls thy healing light;
Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
And pierce the shadows of the tomb.

Refrain

O Come, thou Lord of David's Key.
The royal door fling wide and free;
Safeguard for us the heavenward road,
And bar the way to death's abode.

Refrain

O come, O come, Adonai,
Who in thy glorious
majesty

From that high mountain
clothed in awe,
Gavest thy folk the elder
Law.

Refrain

*Latin 13th century, translated by T. A. Lacey (1853-1931) ©
Oxford University Press*

Prayer for Today

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

I Corinthians I Salutation

Read by Kim Westcott

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among



you⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer

Thank you for Your gifts of grace: You alone make us blameless as we wait for Your return. Amen



Psalm 80

Read by Darrell & Glenda Stevens

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, **you that led Joseph like a flock;**
- 2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, **before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.**
- 3 Stir up your mighty strength **and come to our salvation.**
- 4 Turn us again, O God; **show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**
- 5 O Lord God of hosts, **how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?**
- 6 You feed them with the bread of tears; **you give them abundance of tears to drink.**
- 7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, **and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- 8 Turn us again, O God of hosts; **show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Prayer:

Faithful shepherd of your people, as we look for the light of your countenance, restore in us the image of your glory and graft us into the risen life of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Mark 13 The Coming of the Son of Man

Read by Derek Kingscote

²⁴ 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁸ 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see

these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.



³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

Prayer

Lord give us grace to be ready by keeping faithful. Amen

Reflection from Michael Garland

Twenty-one years ago, in the summer of 1999, many of us witnessed a total eclipse of the sun. Such events are rare; the next one is not due until 2090. Looking back on that day, I can remember the strange and eerie atmosphere, the grey colours, the absence of birdsong for several minutes, the chill of a sudden breeze. It felt like a dark moment in more ways than one. I was reminded of this event when I read this morning's gospel, where Jesus, who seems to have the forthcoming destruction of Jerusalem in mind, says:

But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

A life lived in darkness is not much fun. In the Nordic countries people become affected by the lack of daylight and it has given rise to seasonal affective disorder. One of the comments people often make when the clocks go back in the autumn, is that they hate the thought of the long dark days of winter. Darkness looms in other ways from time to time in our lives. In periods of lockdown and, for some, periods of isolation, life has become difficult, restrictions tiresome, relationships fractured. Our cry may well echo that of the psalmist in verses which are set for today:

Turn us again, O God of hosts. Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Advent Sunday reminds us quite wonderfully that such a cry is fully answered by God in the hope and coming of what will be. The headline news of the last couple of weeks has been dominated by breakthroughs by scientists working on a vaccine, and the promise of a way out of the pandemic that has held us in its grip for so long. The good news of Advent is that Christ comes to us to be the light that shines in the darkness; Jesus embodies the hope that we can cherish. Charles Wesley puts it so beautifully in his Advent hymn, 'Come, thou long-expected Jesus':

*Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*

This is what Advent moves towards; the coming of a Saviour. The object of our longing and the world's salvation. We hear a lot in those press briefings from Downing Street about staying alert. Let us do just that through this season. Let us be watchful and let us be faithful as we look forward in hope to celebrating light in our darkness this coming Christmas.

We declare together our commitment to faith:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is made.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Intercessions from Linda Medwell



God of hope and promise, be with us throughout this advent season and draw us ever closer as we journey together towards the stable and the birth of your son our Saviour.

Lord bless the work of our churches and their leaders as they seek to bring the church to us during this period of lockdown. May we all work together responsibly, lovingly, compassionately and respectfully, responding to one another with love with the focus being your priorities. We pray for the church throughout the world remembering that the church

depends on its people, we are the church, Lord enlarge our vision, enthuse, empower and energise us all to do your will day by day.

Lord when the world seems so often in turmoil and despair hear us as we pray for those who bear the heavy burden of leadership among the nations of the world. Give them, in all their deliberations, wisdom to know your True will, regard for your laws and respect for human rights, that they may seek to lead all people in the path of truth, freedom and peace for the glory of your name.

Lord we turn our prayers now to those passing through anxious times, the sick and the vulnerable, for those suffering from depression and confusion, for all who are in pain and awaiting treatment. For all who live with fear and doubt hold them in your tender arms and give them your peace.

We remember Lord the slenderness of the thread which separates life from death and the suddenness with which it can be broken. Help us also to remember that on both sides of that division we are surrounded by your love. Comfort all those who are left behind mourning their loved ones. Give wisdom and compassion to all those who counsel the bereaved.

Lord we can never thank you enough for everything your love means and all that it can accomplish. Send us out glowing with thankfulness through the coming week. Amen

Offertory Hymn

People, look east

The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though the earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have
ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be
filled.

Even the hour when wings
are frozen
He for fledging time has chosen.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.



Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast
Him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Preparing to receive Holy Communion

Rev'd Canon Dr Sandra Millar offers communion on our behalf

Final Hymn

Long ago, prophets knew

Christ would come, born a Jew,
Come to make all things new;
Bear his People's burden,
Freely love and pardon.
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?



God in time, God in man,
This is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
Born himself of woman,
God divinely human.
Chorus

Mary hail! Though afraid,
She believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
Till the time expected,
Nurtured and protected,
Chorus

Journey ends! Where afar
Beth'lem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) © 1971 Stainer & Bell Ltd

WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:

❖ Keep bringing items for the **Foodbank**; **new collection point is the Church Centre hallway on Friday morning until 11.00am.**

Toiletries now accepted at the foodbank.
Thank you!

Know someone who:

- ❖ is stuck at home without support?
- ❖ can't make ends meet?
- ❖ Just wants to talk?

Then **Contact Gloucestershire Community Help Hub on 01452 583519**

Keep picking up the phone!

People are finding phone calls with friends invaluable to combat loneliness. Thank you everyone; please keep up the good work!



CONTACTING US:

Vicar: Vacancy (please pray for new appointment)

Reader: Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis 01452 502174

Pioneer: Helen McGeoch 07729 615993

Email: tuffleypioneer@gmail.com

Website: www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

Facebook: St. George's, Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon

Administrator: Glenda Stevens 01452 307456

Email: stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com

The Administration office is open on Friday mornings from 9.00am until midday until further notice. Please contact the Church Administrator by email or leave a message on the office telephone and our Administrator will get back to you.

We are part of the **Church in Tuffley**, working in partnership with English Martyrs (Roman Catholic), Grange (Baptist) and St Barnabas (Anglican).



This week's News

In Memoriam:

Heather Hodges, Daphne Greatorex RIP

We pray for all who are ill or in need at this time mentioning by name:

Margaret, Angela, Susan, Mike and Laura, Lynne, Sarah, Pat, Sarah M, Christine, June, Daphne, Darren and family, Brenda Oldcroft, Thomas, Hedley and Rosemary.

Anniversaries of death:

Norman Browning, Eve Budding, David Peart, Philip Mason, Victoria White, Jessica Vines, George Wiseman, Margaret Davies, James Baldwin, Ron Muggleton, Frederick Limbrick, Iris Wakefield, Elsie Vincent, David Humphris, Joan Hacker, Beatrice Webb.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Angela Kent 1st.

DIARY DATES – 29 November – 6 December

Sun 29 – Advent I December/January Crossroads available			
Tues 1	4.00pm 7.30pm	Z Z	Extra Steering Group Advent Bible Study
Wed 2	8.15am 9.00am 7.00pm	Z Z Z	Morning Prayer Mission Group Vacancy meeting with Archdeacon Hilary
Thu 3	10.30am 7.30pm	St M's t.b.c.	Church open for quiet prayer Railway Society
Sat 5	11.00am 7.00pm	t.b.c Internet	Karate South West Carols
Sun 6	10.30am 10.30am 5.00pm 7.00pm	St M's St G's St M's Internet	Family Praise – tbc Parish Communion tbc Evensong South West Carols

**St G's = St George's St M's = St Margaret's,
Z = Zoom,**

Look out for... ...Advent Windows

Churches and Community groups in Tuffley will run a Christmas Advent Window Fenster. Homes in Tuffley are decorating and lighting up one of their street facing windows in December - a new one each night. To take part or for more information, like our Tuffley Christmas Windows Facebook page or contact Helen for more details. Be part of spreading light, fun, comfort and joy!

A map will be issued before the first window lights up in December.

How would you like to... ...Plant/Adopt a tree?

Put 16th January 2021 in your diary and come and join the 'Church in Tuffley Environment team' in Randwick Park to plant 20-25 trees.

The City Council are providing the trees along with protective fencing. Once planted we are then looking for volunteers to 'Adopt a tree (or two). How? – As Corporal Jones would say, "Don't panic". Basically it means ensuring it is watered during any spell of dry weather. That's it! Interested? Contact Lorraine Best on 07407516553.

100 Club

The 100 Club will be drawn on Sunday 13 December, and winners contacted shortly afterwards.

Should you owe monies to your collector please get in touch with them as soon as you can to make sure that your numbers are in the draw. I will ring or email those I know of just to make sure that they don't miss out.

Many thanks Darrell

South West Carols

One hour long Carol services are being transmitted live on their Web site, Facebook page and via YouTube on **Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th December at 7pm**

Visit www.southwestcarols.com for more information.

Food Parcels



St George's Church, Grange Road, is now open for Food Parcel collections.

Tuesdays from 9.00am until 11.00am

15 items per parcel, including tinned soup, pasta or rice, tea bags, cereal and other tinned or dry goods.

Food Parcel is **FREE OF CHARGE**.

To help with sustainability, there will be a donation basket for those who would like to give a suggested donation of £3.

Please be aware of social distancing guidelines