



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



Sunday worship and weekly news  
6 December 2020

## Advent 2 Welcome everyone

Today we welcome to our service  
Rev'd Canon Dr Sandra Millar



Welcome back. Before 'lockdown2' the city was in 'Tier 1'. Now we are in 'Tier 2', the main restriction is we cannot

interact with one another indoors. The Church Wardens are doing everything they can to keep us safe. Please follow their guidance.

During Advent we are anticipating the events surrounding the wonderful birth of Jesus. In a similar fashion both of our New Testament readings today speak of Advent. John the Baptist was anticipating the ministry of Jesus as he cried, 'Prepare the way of the Lord'.

Peter on the other hand encouraged readers of his letter to 'come to repentance', as he anticipated Christ's second coming. No matter how you feel at present, anticipate, with joy, your future with Christ Pete Best

### To keep us all safe Please

Use hand sanitiser, Stay 2 metres apart, Avoid touching, Sing with your heart – Not your voice

The Church of England "strongly advises that face coverings should be worn by all those attending worship remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID19 and that masks are not replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing"

Next week we welcome  
Canon Mike Parsons

## Looking down, looking up Getting Ready

### Processional Hymn

#### Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Born to set thy people free,  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us for ever,  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

### Prayer for Today

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

### 2 Peter 3 The Promise of the Lord's Coming

Read by Jonathan Tamblin

<sup>8</sup> But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.



<sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup> But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.

**Prayer:**

*Lord you want all to come to you. Grant us peace and purity as we wait for You to come to us. Amen*

**Psalm 85 Prayer for the Restoration of God's Favour**

1 Lord, you were gracious to your land; **you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

2 You forgave the offence of your people **and covered all their sins.**

8 I will listen to what the Lord God will say, **for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful, that they turn not again to folly.**

9 Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, **that his glory may dwell in our land.**

10 Mercy and truth are met together, **righteousness and peace have kissed each other;**

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth **and righteousness look down from heaven.**

12 The Lord will indeed give all that is good, **and our land will yield its increase.**

13 Righteousness shall go before him **and direct his steps in the way. Amen**



**Prayer:**

*Most holy God, when we come to you fearing that truth condemns us, show us that truth is one with love in your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen*

**Mark 1: The Proclamation of John the Baptist**

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God <sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"', <sup>4</sup> John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

**Prayer:**

*Lord thank you for John's ministry and ours, of proclaiming your coming and preparing the way. Amen*

**Reflection from Rev'd Dr Sandra Millar**

Advent gives me a funny feeling. On the one hand, it's like looking down a long tube to a tiny, tiny image of a baby in a stable as we get ready to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child into the world, and there's something incredibly comforting about this homely, familiar story, filled with love.

But on the other hand, Advent is like being asked to look up to a huge sky full of mystery and wonder and light as we get ready for the coming of Christ the judge, who will bring about the reconciliation and healing of all things. That is not comforting at all: rather it is an awe-inspiring vision, that should stir our hearts with hope.

Striding between these two visions comes the figure of John the Baptist, calling to us in the opening verses of Mark's Gospel. His invitation is neither to look down or to look up, but rather to look in at ourselves as he calls us to prepare the way of the Lord. He talks of a world of upheaval and change as things are sorted out. If you ever done any landscape work, you will know that it can be very unsettling and messy to make paths straight, to build up a rockery and bring down a hillock. For John, living in the desert, there was always the desert wind, changing the sands in front of his eyes as dunes moved and changed. But all of it is preparing for something new to happen. It is repentance, changing

our lives to lives built on love and hope and joy.

Today is also St. Nicholas Day – a saint we associate with kindness, generosity and care for the child and the poor – actions that are part of getting to ready to welcome Jesus whether in worship as our king or adoration as our Saviour. Advent: season of hope, season of change and season of new vision.



**We declare together our commitment to faith:**

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**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 Sylvia Chamberlain*



Everlasting Father as we take another step into Advent we ask you to prepare us for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ and to hear us when we pray in faith for the needs of the church and the world and to thank you for your

goodness.

We pray for our churches of St. George and St. Margaret and give thanks for all who work to promote the mission of our benefice. We ask that we may continue to spread the gospel in our parish by our deeds and words. We ask for your blessing on the homes and families in Betjeman Close, Stratford Close, and Hathaway Close and remember too all those who are unable to join in our corporate worship at this difficult time.

Lord in your mercy...

Dear Lord - we pray today for peace in our world, and an end to violence. May there be peace in our homes and hearts so that we may live and work together in a spirit of peace and harmony. Remind us all that we share your world with others, many less fortunate than we are and who may be resentful. Help us to understand their frustration which often expresses itself in violence and anger. Purify the

minds and attitudes of men and women in leadership, especially the media, so that they present a better more peaceful view of our world, rather than the violent image that agitates those troubled in spirit. May the world know the peace of Christ, without which society loses its direction and ignores our deep desire for peace.

Lord in your mercy...

God our Father, we remember before you any who are suffering from any form of illness. We pray for any who are anxious, sorrowful, or in any kind of need at this time. We pray especially for loved ones and those who are known to us who are ill or in any kind of need. We remember them now in the quietness of our hearts. We know that you love them, and know their every need, far better than we do. We ask that you will do for them as you see best, and bless them with your love and peace. We give thanks for all those in the health service who are still working to combat the Covid 19 virus.

Lord in your mercy...

Heavenly Father we thank you for those who have died in the faith of Christ. We thank you for allowing us to share our lives with them. We pray for those who mourn. Open their minds that they may find a new direction in life, and grant them the comfort of your presence. Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench - You turn our darkness into light, in your light shall we see light.

Lord in your mercy...

*Loving Father, as we approach a Christmas season that looks very different from normal, we thank you, that while we may not be able to be with our families and loved ones in person, we know that You are always with them. Where there is weariness, we ask for rest; where there is hopelessness, we pray that you will bring fresh encouragement; where there is despair, we ask for hope. Merciful Father... Amen*

**Offertory Hymn**

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry**

Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Come then and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings from the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every Christian breast,  
And furnished for so great a guest.  
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,  
Our refuge, and our great reward;  
Without thy grace our souls must fade  
And wither like a flower decayed.

Stretch forth thine hand, to  
heal our sore,  
And make us rise to fall no  
more;  
Once more upon thy people  
shine,  
And fill the world with love divine.



All praise, eternal Son, to thee  
Whose advent sets thy people free,  
Whom, with the Father, we adore,  
And Spirit bless, for evermore.

### *Preparing to receive Holy Communion*

After the priest says to us all: "the body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life", we all respond, **Amen**. A steward will guide you forward. We each receive a wafer, the priest alone receives the wine on behalf of us all. We receive communion with arms outstretched, and in silence. Please maintain a 2 metre distance at all times.

### **Final Hymn**

#### **Hills of the North, rejoice**

Echoing songs arise,  
Hail with united voice  
Him who made earth and skies;  
He comes in righteousness and love,  
He brings salvation from above.

Isles of the Southern seas,  
Sing to the listening earth,  
Carry on every breeze  
Hope of a world's new birth:  
In Christ shall all be made anew,  
His word is sure, his promise true.

Lands of the East, arise,  
He is your brightest morn,  
Greet him with joyous eyes,  
Praise shall his path adorn:  
The God whom you have longed to know  
In Christ draws near, and calls you now.

Shores of the utmost West,  
Lands of the setting sun,  
Welcome the heavenly guest  
In whom the dawn has come:  
He brings a never-ending light  
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.

Shout, as you  
journey on,  
Songs be in every  
mouth,  
Lo, from the North  
they come,  
From East and West and South:  
In Jesus all shall find their rest,  
In him the sons of earth be blest.



*Editors of English Praise (1975) based on Charles E  
Oakley (1832-1865) © Oxford University Press*

Please leave the building immediately after the  
Priest  
**The Rule of 6 applies. Please do not linger  
outside**

### **This week's News**

#### **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,  
Hedley and Rosemary.

#### **Anniversaries of death:**

David Humphris, Joan Hacker, Beatrice Webb,  
Winifred O'Leary, John Dee, Keith Worrall,  
Hazel Whitmore, Margaret Edwards,  
Frances Perry, Margaret Nichols,  
Christelle Cantillion, Sandra Robinson, Duncan  
Eagles, Albert Perry, Molly Lee, Peter Preece,  
William Andrews.

#### **Birthdays and Anniversaries:**

Hilary Brammer celebrates a special birthday on  
7<sup>th</sup>, Malcolm & Dot Martin celebrate their 59<sup>th</sup>  
wedding anniversary on 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:**

❖ Keep bringing items for the **Foodbank**; **new  
collection point is the Church Centre hallway.**  
**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: [tufflepioneer@gmail.com](mailto:tufflepioneer@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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).



### DIARY DATES 6 – 13 December

Sun 6	10.30am	St M's	Family Praise
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion <b>Crucifer:</b> David <b>Readers:</b> Jonathon T & Dot <b>Intercessions:</b> Sylvia C
	5.00pm	St M's	Evensong
	7.00pm	Internet	South West Carols
Mon 7	10.00am	MH	Speakability - t.b.c.
	10.00am		Burial of Ashes for the late Josephine Beard
	7.00pm	Z	Centre Management Committee
Tue 8	1.00pm	MH	Bluebird Care
	7.30pm	Z	Advent Bible Study
Wed 9	8.15am	Z	Morning Prayer
	9.00am	Z	Mission Group
	12.00pm	St G's	Gentle Exercise Class
	3.30pm	MH	Slimming World also at 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Thu 10	10.30am	St M's	Parish Communion
	7.30pm		Railway Society 12 Ryelands t.b.c.
Sun 13	9.00am	St M's	Parish Communion
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion followed by 100 Club Draw & Christmas Draw <b>Crucifer:</b> Sylvia C <b>Readers:</b> David & Susan <b>Intercessions:</b> Helen
	5.00pm	St M's	Carols by Candlelight

**St G's – St George's St M's = St Margaret's**  
**MH = Main Hall, Z = Zoom**

**How would you like to... ...Plant 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. Interested? Contact Lorraine Best on 07407516553.

**CHRISTMAS DRAW TICKETS ON SALE TODAY – SEE GLENDA**

### 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

A one hour long Carol service is being transmitted today at 7pm. The service will be live on the Web site shown below. You can also find it on their Facebook page and via YouTube. For more information visit [www.southwestcarols.com](http://www.southwestcarols.com)

## Food Parcels

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

On Tuesdays from 9.00am until 11.00am

15 items per parcel. The parcel is FREE OF CHARGE but organisers would appreciate a donation.

## Christmas Hampers 2020

Thank you so much for all the donations. Helen is now looking for more drivers to transport the hampers to schools. Volunteers will load and unload them from your car boot. You do not need to get out of your car. Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> from 1.00pm to 2:30pm. Please contact Helen to let her know if you are available to help.

## Look out for... ...Advent Windows

Churches and Community groups in Tuffley are running 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.

The advent windows map is on the Tuffley

Christmas Windows Face Book page.

Or on this link: [shorturl.at/dho46](http://shorturl.at/dho46)

## New Gentle Exercise Class

Each Wednesday from 12.00noon until 1.00pm. Socially distanced exercise class for the elderly. Meet in the Church. Cost £1.50 per week.

## Advent Course via Zoom with Susan Scothern

Each Tuesday through Advent at 7.30pm for 1 hour. Contact Susan or Helen for further details.

## News of Helen...

Following her ordination on the 27th June 2021, Helen will become the new Curate working with the Rev Juliet Jensen, Vicar of St James Church, Upton Street and Christ Church, Brunswick Road. We wish her every blessing as she completes her studies and moves into her new position.

## Carols by Candlelight at St Margaret's

St Margaret's, restrictions permitting, will be holding four 'Carol by Candlelight' services this year. To book a seat at one of these services please contact one of the Wardens or ring Hans Rackham on 528969

Booking is essential...

...No booking no entry

\*\*\*\* Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December \*\*\*\*

The Diocese have recommended NO SERVICES on Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Consequently, neither St George's nor St Margaret's will open on that date.

## ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Start Tuesday 1 December

For 4 weeks

7.30pm on ZOOM

Contact Susan Scothern for details

## CHRISTMAS DRAW TIME

your chance to go home with something  
you didn't bring with you

Yes it's CHRISTMAS

PRIZE DRAW time

Glenda is selling raffle tickets

TODAY AND NEXT SUNDAY

So come on, it could be your luck day!!

St Margaret of Scotland, Whaddon

Carols by Candlelight

We are holding

four shortened services this year:

Sunday 13 December at 5.00pm

Wednesday 16 December at 7.00pm

Sunday 20 December at 5.00pm

Wednesday 23 December 7.00pm

Capacity is limited because of Covid, so prebooking is essential. If you would like to come, please phone Hans Rackham on 01452 528939 or email [H\\_M\\_Rackham@talktalk.net](mailto:H_M_Rackham@talktalk.net)

## CHRISTMAS EVE

at St George's

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Everyone is welcome

to come to this service

## CHRISTMAS DAY

AT ST MARGARET'S

9.00AM PARISH COMMUNION

10.30AM FAMILY CHRISTMAS PRAISE

BOOKING IS REQUIRED FOR EITHER SERVICE