

Sunday

19 November 2023 Second Sunday before Advent

COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy
the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and
heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and
great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and
glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7. 12-end

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

PSALM Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 (or 90:1-8)

R O Lord my God, in you I take refuge.

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the earth and the world were formed,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. **R**

You turn us back to dust and say:
"Turn back, O children of earth."

For a thousand years in your sight are
but as yesterday,
which passes like a watch in the night. **R**

You sweep them away like a dream;
they fade away suddenly like the grass.
In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered. **R**

For we consume away in your displeasure;
we are afraid at your wrathful indignation.
You have set our misdeeds before you
and our secret sins in the light of your
countenance. **R**

[When you are angry, all our days are gone;
our years come to an end like a sigh.

The days of our life are three score years
and ten,
or if our strength endures, even four score;
yet the sum of them is but labour and sorrow,
for they soon pass away and we are gone. **R**

Who regards the power of your wrath
and your indignation like those who fear you?
So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples, "The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey,

summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

POST COMMUNION

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.



SIGNPOST

the weekly newsletter of
St George's, Tuffley with St Margaret's, Whaddon
Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering
'Growing God's Kingdom'
Welcome to all

Diary Dates from 19th to 26th November

Sun 19	2 before ADVENT		
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion Crucifer: Sylvia C Readers: Lynne/David Intercessions: Paul Coffee: Brian/Jenny
	5.00pm	St M's	Evensong
Mon 20	5.00pm	Zoom	Evening Prayer
	5.00pm	MH	Brownies
	6.00pm	SH	Rainbows
	6.00pm		Monday at 6
	7.15pm	MH	Guides
Tue 21	9.30am	SH	Coffee Pot
	10.00am	St G's	Parish Communion
	1.30pm	St G's	Fun & Free
	5.00pm	LC	Evening Prayer
	6.30pm	MH	Cubs & Beavers
Wed 22	8.15am	Zoom	Morning Prayer
Thu 23	10.30am	St M's	Parish Communion
	10.30am	SH/SL	Thursday Club
	2.00pm	SH	Art Group
Fri 24	7.30pm	SH	Entertainers
	11.30am	EM	Church in Tuffley Litter Pick
Sun 26	CHRIST THE KING Dec/Jan Crossroads available		
	9.00am	St M's	Parish Communion
		St G's	Parish Communion Crucifer: Jayne Readers: Derek/Susan Intercessions: Linda M Coffee: Sylvia /Dot

St G's = St George's, St M's = St Margaret's,
MH = Main Hall of Centre, SH = Small Hall,
SL = Softley Lounge, LC = Lady Chapel,
EM = English Martyrs

Advent Groups - Christmas Unwrapped

These will meet on Mondays from 7.30pm until 9.00pm (4th, 11th, 18th December) and Wednesdays from 2.00pm until 3.30pm (6th, 13th, 20th December) and will be watching a short video each time filmed in Nazareth and Bethlehem - these are fascinating videos, which will no doubt give us questions to ask and things to wonder about the meaning of Christmas. If you are intending to come along to any of the sessions, could you sign up on the list at the back of church please to give an idea of numbers.

Let Me Entertain You This Christmas: Saturday 2nd
 December at 7.30pm, tickets from Glenda or Darrell at £5.00 each to include mince pies (or an alternative). Proceeds to St George's Church.

Intercessions

We pray for... Laura, Angela, Margaret & Mark, Johanna, James, Peter, Janet, Sophie & family, Andrew, Hans, George, Chris, Selina & family.

If you would like your birthday/anniversary mentioned on Signpost, please see Glenda. Thank you!

Hymns at St George's: 434, 620, 753, All are welcome

Gloucester & District Christian Choir and "Ukrania" a Ukrainian Choir will be singing at **St Mary de Crypt Church, Southgate St on Saturday 25th November at 7.00pm.** Refreshments provided, and the retiring collection will be in aid of **Christian Aid** and **Ukrainian Refugee Fund.**

Christmas Fair 9th December from 12.00noon to 3.00pm: Please could you sign up if you are able to help with the Christmas Fair. Donations of tombola, Bottle Stall and Grand Draw prizes would also be much appreciated. There are Grand Draw tickets available as from today at the back of St George's

FOODBANK: ♦ Keep bringing items for the Foodbank on a Sunday. Collection point is the tray at the back of the Church. The Foodbank are in **URGENT NEED OF LONG- LIFE MILK, TINNED (Carrots, Peas, Sweetcorn), TINNED RICE PUDDING, TOOTHBRUSHES.** Thank you.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS: Once again, we are working with the other churches in Tuffley to provide Christmas Hampers for families in need in our schools. Sheets are the back of each church with the items needed. Please do take one or more sheets if you can, to help with these hampers.

CONTACTING US:

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There is an answer phone in use outside of office hours
 Email: stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com
 The Administration office is open on Wednesday to Friday from 9.30am until 11.30am.

We are part of the **Church in Tuffley**

