



The Advent Hope

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



Sunday worship and weekly news
13 December 2020

Advent 3
Welcome everyone

We welcome

Rev'd Mike Parsons to our service today



John the Baptist has been called the Advent Saint. His call to repentance is for us a call of hope. Jesus taught us that repentance brings us

closer to the God who loves us and who wants us to turn back to him.

This Advent we have another hope, too – that at last there is a way back from the nightmare of Covid. How appropriate are the words of our Psalm. If we really are on our way back to singing God's praises in church, then I for one will be "like those who dream".

As Paul advises us: "rejoice always, pray... and give thanks".

Jonathan

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
Rev Canon Dr Sandra Millar

Processional Hymn

Through the night of doubt and sorrow

Onward goes the pilgrim band,
Singing songs of expectation,
Marching to the promised land.

Clear before us through the darkness
Gleams and burns the guiding light;
Pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim,
Stepping fearless through the night.

One the light of God's own presence
O'er his ransomed people shed,
Chasing far the gloom and terror,
Brightening all the path we tread;

One the object of our journey,
One the faith which never tires,
One the earnest looking forward,
One the hope our God inspires:

One the gladness of rejoicing
On the far eternal shore,
Where the one almighty Father
Reigns in love for evermore.

Prayer for Today

O Lord Jesus Christ,

Who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you:

Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,

that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;

For you are alive and reign with the Father in unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-end

The Good news of deliverance



The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD 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; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸ For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Prayer: *Lord your good news is justice and freedom for the oppressed and broken. We exalt you! Amen*

Psalm 126

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, **then were we like those who dream.**

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter **and our tongue with songs of joy.**

the LORD has done GREAT things & we are JOY filled with

3 Then said they among the nations, **'The Lord has done great things for them.'**

4 The Lord has indeed done great things for us, **and therefore we rejoiced.**

5 Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, **as the river beds of the desert.**

6 Those who sow in tears **shall reap with songs of joy.**

7 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, **will come back with shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them.**

Prayer: *Lord, as you send rain and flowers even to the wilderness, renew us by your Holy Spirit, help us to sow good seed in time of adversity and to live to rejoice in your good harvest of all creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

John 1 The Word Became Flesh

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

The Testimony of John the Baptist

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.'

²¹ And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' ²² Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'

²³ He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

"Make straight the way of the Lord",

as the

prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had

been sent from the

Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' ²⁶ John answered them, 'I baptize with water.

Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.



Prayer: *Lord thank you for calling John and each of us to be a witness testifying to the light of your love come amongst us. Amen*

Reflection from Rev Mike Parsons

"Of course, I'm not a candidate in this election / I have no intention of letting my name go forward". How often have we heard words like these from politicians, only to be followed by "After pressure from my friends / for the sake of the party / very reluctantly – I have decided I must be a candidate".

John the Baptist was in no doubt at all. He was NOT the Messiah, nor the prophet who was to come nor Elijah returned. However, he was clear about who he was, the voice of God coming to his people. He saw himself as fulfilling the words of Isaiah, "I'm the voice calling in the desert, straighten out the road for the master" He was the voice, the word, the fulfilment of prophesy.

The Pharisees sent the religious thought police to interrogate him, just as they themselves later interrogated Jesus, "By what authority do you do these things?". Jesus' reply was that he'll answer that if they tell him whether they thought John was from man or from God. They dare not answer as either answer landed them in a deep hole, so they chickened out and said "We don't know". But Jesus' reply to John's disciples, when they asked (John was now in prison) if Jesus really was 'the coming one', was to go and tell John what you see: the kingdom is here.

The Baptist challenges us to both come to an answer about Jesus, and also to recognise that God had already spoken through Isaiah. St John puts this in the context of his deep and magnificent prologue to the gospel, and challenges us to hear the word of God, the Word made flesh, Jesus. And then act on it.

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 Lorraine Best

Heavenly Father, We rejoice in the coming of John the Baptist, the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, the one who prepared the way for the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.



May our witness be as clear and faithful. We pray for the ministry of all who testify to the light of Your gospel. Our bishops, Rachel and Robert, our Area Deans Hilary and Michael, all who serve within our benefice, for whoever will become our next incumbent. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for the peace and wholeness that our world needs so desperately. We pray for our Queen and her family, we pray for our members of parliament and their families. We pray for all local community leaders and their families. May they all work with integrity to promote harmony not division.

We pray for all whose work, whether paid or voluntary, benefits others by providing healthcare, social care, practical assistance in emergencies or times of crisis. Protect them from feeling overwhelmed by the pressures they face. Lord in your mercy...

We pray for all who need a healing touch or reassuring words from You. For those who are sick in body, mind or spirit. We silently lift before You those we are concerned about...

We pray for all who are experiencing grief at this time. Those who have lost people they knew and loved. Those who have lost their jobs or are being forced into reduced circumstances. Those who are not coping well with isolation or social restrictions. Once again, we silently lift before You anyone we know personally and trust that You will comfort them and give them hope... Lord in your mercy...

We pray for ourselves that we will rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances.

Your Word reassures us that this is Your will for us and that You are faithful to keep all we entrust to You until You come again or take us to be with You. Merciful father...

Offertory Hymn

Longing for light, we wait in darkness

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

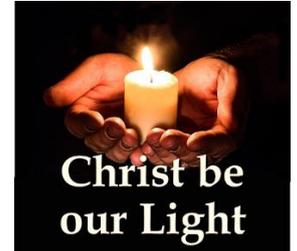
Light for the world to see.

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.



Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Chorus

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

Shared until all are fed.

Chorus

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

Walls made of living stones.

Chorus

Many the gifts, many the people,

Many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

Making your kingdom come.

Chorus

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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



Lo, he comes with clouds descending
 Once for favoured sinners slain;
 Thousand thousand saints attending
 Swell the triumph of his train:

Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!
 God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
 Robed in dreadful majesty;
 Those who set at naught and sold him,
 Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
 Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
 Shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
 Still his dazzling body bears;
 Cause of endless exultation
 To his ransomed worshippers:
 With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,
 Gaze we on those glorious scars.

Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
 High on thine eternal throne;
 Saviour, take the power and glory,
 Claim the kingdom for thine own:
 O come quickly, O come quickly, O come quickly,
 Alleluia! come, Lord, come!

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

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: 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:

Susan Mitchell

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, Hedley and Rosemary.

Anniversaries of death:

Duncan Eagles, Albert Perry, Molly Lee, Peter Preece, William Andrews, Jean Willetts, Edith Morris, William Nice, Sheila Harvey, Janet Troughton, Geoffrey Wilson, Sidney Tocknell, Angus Mackeller, Richard Beard, Beatrice Jeffroy, Bernard Stamps, Karen Rendle, Diane Ashmead.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

None that we know of.

DIARY DATES – 13 – 20 December

Sun 13	9.00am	St M's	Parish Communion
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion followed by... 100 Club Draw & Christmas Prize Draw Crucifer: Sylvia C Readers: David & Susan Intercessions: Helen
Sun 13	5.00pm	St M's	Carols by Candlelight

Tue 15	1.00pm	MH	Bluebird Care
	4.00pm	Z	Steering Committee
	7.30pm	Z	Advent Bible Study
Wed 16	8.15am	Z	Morning Prayer
	9.00am	Z	Mission Group
	5.00pm	St M's	Carols by Candlelight
	3.30pm	MH	Slimming World also at 5.30pm
	7.00pm	St M's	Carols by Candlelight
Thu 17	10.30am	St M's	Parish Communion
Sun 20			Advent 4
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion Crucifer: Jayne Readers: Derek & Linda Intercessions: Susan
	5.00pm	St M's	Carols by Candlelight

St George's = St G's St Margaret's = St M'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

Advent Course via Zoom with Susan Scothern

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

CHRISTMAS DRAW and 100 CLUB DRAW today

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.

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

Gentle Exercise Class at Grange Baptist Church.

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

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.

**** Sunday 27th December ****

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

Carols by Candlelight at St Margaret's

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

or there should be some booking forms at the back of church

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 and drawing

raffle tickets TODAY!

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

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