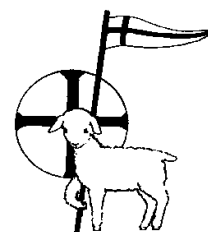


Church of St John the Baptist, Tisbury

reflecting Jesus Christ



Sunday 22nd November

Christ the King



Canon Judy Anderson writes:

I remember vividly an occasion not long after I had completed my training. I was leading Evensong on an autumn evening, when the weather was just beginning to turn colder. All was going smoothly, until I became aware of a bit of a commotion at the back of the church. I looked up and, to my horror, saw a down-and-out who had wandered in dragging behind him a dishevelled-looking dog on a string. What should I do? What if this intruder disrupted our well-ordered service? He was an embarrassment among our middle-class congregation. With relief, I saw my vicar get up from his seat near the back and walk towards the man. 'Thank goodness,' I thought, 'he'll get him to leave.' But he

didn't. Ray sat down beside the man and, I assume, spoke to him and made him welcome. After a while, he left, much as he had arrived, shuffling out with his dog in tow. The relief was palpable as we all relaxed.

The reading that evening was the same one we have as our Gospel this morning. 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' That was us. We had failed to welcome this stranger. Had we failed to welcome Christ, Christ the King, our King? We had felt uncomfortable at his presence. Now I felt worse than uncomfortable at my attitude, my exclusivity and my fear of the unexpected and the unknown. It was a very clear lesson, and a hard one.

How much better the world would be if we looked for Christ in everyone we meet. How much better the world would be if people treated each other as they would treat Christ. Let's take as our watchword the words of Christ, our King: 'Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Today's service: 9.30am

Parish Communion

Online via Zoom

President: The Revd Tina Fox

Preacher: The Revd Elaine Brightwell

Do join us online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84966332040> Password 039012

Services during the week continue online

Full details are on the website: www.tisburyparishchurch.org

Next Sunday, 29th November

Advent Sunday

Online via Zoom

9.30am Parish Communion

President: The Revd Juliette Hulme

Preacher: The Revd Mark Hayter

Parish Communion for Advent Sunday, with the lighting of the first Advent candle. Streamed live from St John's for you to join from the comfort of your own home!

4.00pm Advent Service

Led by the Revd Elaine Brightwell

Church open for private prayer

The church is open for private prayer **every day** between 9.00am and 4.00pm (approx.) We hope that you will find this provision helpful; do please follow the guidelines on the notice at church to minimise the risk of spreading infection.

The Collect for Christ the King

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 34. 11-16, 20-24

The Gospel: Matthew 25.31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

A Call to Prayer for the Nation

The Archbishops have asked that every church pray for the nation at 6pm each day; they have published a weekly prayer and a prayer theme for each day. In the Nadder Valley, we shall be joining this initiative just a little earlier each weekday, by incorporating the prayers into our online service of Evening Prayer at 5.30pm. Do join us!



Coffee Time!

Fancy a cuppa and a chat? Feeling isolated during lockdown? We meet on Zoom on Friday mornings for an hour or so starting at 10 am. Hosted by the Revd Joanna Naish. Just click on the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81306923058?pwd=U2VBWDhodkppZDKrdEhuUEc0aFpYdz09> Passcode: 567559

or phone 0203 481 5237 Meeting ID: 813 0692 3058 Passcode: 567559

If you need support

As always, the Revd Juliette Hulme (Parish Priest) is available to give pastoral and spiritual support (see below)

Other useful numbers with trained listeners (calls to these numbers are free):

The Samaritans 116 123

Childline 0800 1111

Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247

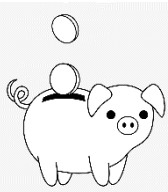
Silverline (age 55+) 0800 4 70 80 90

Wiltshire Domestic Abuse Helpline 01225 775276 [weekends and out of hours 01793 610610]

Christmas Charity Donations

Since the notice was placed in Focus (p10), the Trussell Trust has said that it is not able to take donations at the moment as they have no more storage space; Alabare Christian Care would be very pleased to receive donations. Supermarket tokens for the Refuge would also be very welcome.

Giving to the church



Thank you very much to those who continue to give regularly to the church. If you haven't committed to regular giving, why not consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme or setting up a standing order? Details from Paul Naish, email sjtgiftaid@gmail.com tel 01747 870731 07587 072900. Our income dropped significantly during the first lockdown, while expenses continued; any donations would be very welcome. Cheques payable to Tisbury PCC.