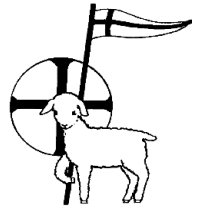


St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury

reflecting Jesus Christ



Sunday 12th December

The Third Sunday of Advent

Do stay for refreshments after the 9.30 service. Please wear a face covering while collecting your refreshments and move away from the table once you have them; please keep social distancing in mind as you chat.

Today's Services

9.30am Parish Communion

President: The Revd Juliette Hulme Preacher: The Revd Mark Hayter

Setting: The Brecon Service *Philip Moore*

Hymns: 12 On Jordan's banks; 15 The Lord will come; 55 Hail to the Lord's anointed; 5 Hark a herald voice is calling
Advent Gospel Acclamation *John Harper* During Communion: A tender shoot *Simon Lole*

Voluntary: Gottes Sohn ist kommen *JS Bach*

In this special service we celebrate and give thanks for the faithful ministry of our Lay Pastoral Assistants over many years. Felicity Corp, Prue Gingell, Sally Naish and Jenny Shallcross have stepped down as LPAs; we thank them for all they contributed in this role. We pray for our remaining LPAs, Peter Coopman, Ann Hare, Kate Prior and Jean Watson, in their continued ministry.

6.00pm Reflective Service

Led by the Revd Joanna Naish

Services during the week

St Andrew's Chapel

Services of Holy Communion take place on Wednesdays at 10.00am (CW) and Fridays at 8.00am (BCP)

Next Sunday, 19th December

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30am Parish Communion

President and Preacher: The Revd Juliette Hulme

For your prayers

We are asked to pray for all those preparing to celebrate Christmas in our linked diocese of Cueibet, South Sudan, that it may truly be a time of joy and peace.

We pray for all for whom for a variety of reasons Christmas is not a joyful time, and for those who find this season, with all the preparations and excitement, difficult.



In Memoriam

We were sorry to hear of the death last Sunday of John Gibbons, a faithful and much-loved member of our congregation for many years. The funeral will be at St John's at 10.30am on Thursday 30th December. We pray for John's widow, Louise, and their daughters Kate and Rachel, at this time of loss.

Christmas Services at St John's

Monday 20th December at 7.30pm

Village Carol Service

Friday 24th December at 4.00pm

Crib Service (*particularly suitable for children*)

Friday 24th December at 10.00pm

The First Eucharist of Christmas (*essentially Midnight Mass, but earlier!*)

Saturday 25th December at 9.30am

Parish Communion for Christmas Day

Advance booking is essential for all these services. Some socially distanced pews will be available. To book, please contact the Parish Administrator (see below), stating which service(s) you wish to attend, how many seats you require, and whether you need socially distanced seating.

Tuesday 21st December at 6pm

Drive-in Carols

Dinton

For further details of this benefice event, please see separate flyer. To book, please email revmarkh@icloud.com

The Revd Juliette Hulme, Team Vicar
Canon Judy Anderson, Parish Administrator

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The Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent

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 the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3.14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

The Gospel: Luke 3.7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Advent Boxes

Our boxes this year are for **Save the Children**. This long-established charity helps children around the world get the medicine, good food and education they need, as well as responding to crises in places such as Yemen, Syria and Afghanistan. Do please take a box and give generously to this very worthy cause.

Christmas Cheer

Anyone who wishes to contribute to needy individuals or families in Tisbury, to help them have a more cheerful Christmas than they otherwise would have had, is invited to make their donation (in cash please) to a member of the clergy, a Churchwarden or the Parish Administrator in a sealed envelope marked 'Christmas Cheer' no later than **11am on Sunday 19th December** please. All such donations will be gratefully received and will be distributed in time for Christmas.

Christmas Charity Donations

The Women's Refuge send thanks for the gifts we donated – without our help, they say, 'we would be unable to support our residents and their children at this crucial time.' They wish us all a very happy Christmas.

East Window

The East Window committee are happy to say that there is at long last progress on the east window which is due for replacement after a lengthy process of assessment and investigation into whether it could be restored rather than replaced. This has taken many years. Studies revealed that the state of decay and poor previous restoration, including overpainting of the glass, make it impossible to achieve any sort of satisfactory result. The PCC have commissioned a distinguished stained glass artist, Tom Denny, to produce a replacement design. This has been highly praised by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and is available for anyone to inspect at the altar rail in St Andrew's Chapel.

We now await the final decision whether we can go ahead from the Chancellor of the DAC, who will we hope then grant the Faculty (ecclesiastical planning permission).

Any comments you may wish to make can be emailed to the Parish office.

Covid-19 update

As England moves to Plan B, with the spread of the omicron variant of the Covid-19 coronavirus, it is now once again a legal requirement that face coverings are worn in places of worship, rather than a request as has been the case for the last few months.

This is a government directive,
not just advice from the Church of England.

We ask you, therefore, please to wear a face covering throughout all services, unless you are exempt.

Thank you!