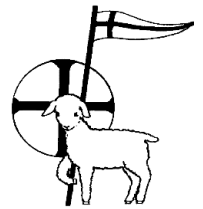


St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury

reflecting Jesus Christ



Sunday 18th December 2022

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today's service

9.30am Parish Communion

President and Preacher: The Revd Juliette Hulme

Setting: The Brecon Service *Philip Moore*

Advent Gospel Acclamation *John Harper*

Hymns: 7 Hills of the north rejoice; Psalm 80 vv 1-8; 33 Of the Father's heart begotten (omit * verses)

During Communion: The Advent Prose *Stuart Robinson*

Final hymn: 185 Sing we of the blessed mother

Organ Voluntary: Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland *JS Bach*

There is no evening service at St John's today

Services during the week

Services of Holy Communion are held on Wednesdays at 10.00am St Andrew's Chapel (CW) and Fridays at 8.00am in the Vestry (BCP). All are welcome.

Details of online services during the week may be found on our website www.tisburyparishchurch.org



Christmas Services at St John's

Monday 19th December at 7.30pm: Village Carol Service

Christmas Eve at 4.00pm: Crib Service (*particularly suitable for children*)

Christmas Eve at 10.00pm: The First Eucharist of Christmas

Christmas Day at 9.30am: Parish Communion

Giving for Christmas

Christmas Cheer

Thank you very much indeed to all of you who have given so generously for needy individuals or families in Tisbury, to help them have a more cheerful Christmas than they otherwise would have had. If you have not yet contributed and would like to do so, please give your donation (in cash please) to Juliette, to a Churchwarden or to the Parish Administrator in a sealed envelope marked 'Christmas Cheer,' no later than **11am on Sunday 18th December**. The remaining money will be distributed early in the coming week.

Christmas Charity Donations

Thank you very much to all who donated supermarket tokens for Salisbury Women's Refuge or non-perishable food items for the Trussell Trust. Your contributions have been very gratefully received by the charities and will be passed on to needy individuals and families.

Advent Boxes

Our Advent boxes this year are for the Children's Society. Do please take a box, if you have not already done so, and bring it back (full!) after Christmas. Gift aid envelopes are available in church. Information about the work of the charity may be found on its website: www.childrensociety.org.uk

Food Collection Point in Tisbury

A reminder that there is a box near the tills in the Tisbury Co-op for donations of food for the Salisbury Food Bank. It is very much hoped that those of us who are able will get into the habit of putting something into the box when we do our shopping. Any contributions would be very gratefully received.

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

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The Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; 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: Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Psalm 80.1-8

- ¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel : you that led Joseph like a flock;
 - ² Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim : before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
 - ³ Stir up your mighty strength : and come to our salvation.
 - ⁴ Turn us again, O God : show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
 - ⁵ O Lord God of hosts : how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
 - ⁶ You feed them with the bread of tears : you give them abundance of tears to drink.
 - ⁷ You have made us the derision of our neighbours : and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
 - ⁸ Turn us again, O God of hosts : show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit :
as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

The Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

For your prayers

Please would you continue to pray the prayer which Bishop Stephen has asked everyone in the diocese to pray together during Advent:

Faithful God, your world is full of fear. Hunger, cold, and loneliness are all around. Your children are hurting. Into our darkness comes the child of Bethlehem - Jesus, the light who cannot be overcome. He is with us always. He speaks words of hope and words of truth. May his Spirit fill our hearts this Advent and awaken us to your purposes: making us generous in giving, active in serving, and alert to your reign of justice, mercy, and peace, which he calls us to bring to birth - here, and now. Amen.

In our linked diocese of Cuebiet, South Sudan, we are asked to pray this week for all those preparing to celebrate Christmas in the diocese, that it may truly be a time of Joy and Peace.

