reflecting Jesus Christ



Sunday 19th November 2023 The Second Sunday before Advent

Today's Services

9.30am Parish Communion

President: Revd Juliette Hulme Gloria: St Thomas Mass *David Thorne* Hymns: 443 Rejoice the Lord is King; 3 Come, thou long expected Jesus; 302 O thou who at thy Eucharist didst pray During Communion: Bread of the world in mercy broken Final hymn: 206 Christ is our cornerstone Organ Voluntary: Kyrie, Gott Heiliger Geist JS Bach

6.00pm Choral Evensong

Led by the Revd Juliette Hulme Introit: Call to Remembrance *Richard Farrant* Responses: *Seal* Setting: *Brewer* in D Psalm 89 vs 19-29 Hymns: 213 The eternal gifts of Christ the King; 486 We have a gospel to proclaim Anthem: And I saw a new heaven *Malcolm Archer* Organ Voluntary: Fugue sur le thème du Carillon des Heures de la Cathédrale de Soissons *Durufl*é

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 can be found on our website.

Next Sunday, 26th November

Christ the King

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

President and Preacher: Revd Canon Simon Evans

9.30am Parish Communion

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Saturday 25th November Fire in the Heart: Online Advent Retreat with Julian of Norwich

The *Church Times*, with *Canterbury Press*, invites us to join them for an online retreat as we enter the sacred and transformative season of Advent, a time of reflection, anticipation, and preparation. Accompanying us through the morning will be Julian of Norwich, one of the most influential figures in Christian spirituality. You can join from 10.00am on the day, or set your own time for quiet retreat and watch the recording later. Speakers include Claire Gilbert, Julia Mourant, Malcolm Guite, Rachel Mann and Richard Carter. The cost is £15. Book your place at: https://www.churchtimes.co.uk/fire-in-the-heart-an-advent-retreat-with-julian-of-norwich

An appeal from the Bishop of Salisbury for the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza

The hospital is owned and supported by the Episcopal (Anglican) Diocese of Jerusalem and remains open to serve all Gazans, despite shelling and missile attacks. Medical staff are continuing to serve at huge personal risk to themselves. Bishop Stephen asks us all, if we can, to support the hospital at this critical time. The quickest and most efficient way to donate is direct, via this link: <u>https://www.jmeca.org.uk/get-involved/donate/current-appeals-0/al-ahli-hospital-gaza-appeal</u> You can read about the hospital and its work using the same link.

The Revd Juliette Hulme, Team Vicar Canon Judy Anderson, Parish Administrator revjmhulme@gmail.com tisburyparishchurch@gmail.com 01747 871957 01747 873142

www.tisburyparishchurch.org

The Collect for the Second Sunday before Advent

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. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

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.

The Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

lesus said, 'It 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."

For your prayers

In our linked diocese of Cueibet, South Sudan, we are asked to pray this week for the relationship between the Episcopal Churches of Sudan and South Sudan and the Diocese of Salisbury.

We pray for justice, hope, reconciliation and peace, for Gaza and Israel, and also for the Sudans and for Ukraine. In the Holy Land we pray for a return of the hostages and for a ceasefire that is respected on all sides. We pray for safety for the medical staff and the patients of the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza, run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. We pray for aid to reach the people of Gaza.

We pray for all those whose lives are traumatised by the loss of a loved one through violence. We pray for comfort and strength for the days ahead.

Christmas gifts

At Christmas many of us like to give something to those who are in need. Once again, instead of bringing a present to church at Christmas, we invite you to contribute to the work of two of our local charities, Salisbury Food Bank and Salisbury Refuge. Please see the separate notice for details of what items would be helpful and how to donate. Thank you!