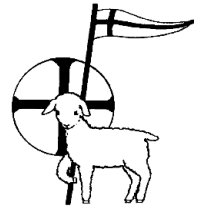


St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury

reflecting Jesus Christ



Sunday 1st December 2024

Advent Sunday

Today's Service

9.30am All-Age Service Christingle

Led by Canon Judy Anderson

Today, on Advent Sunday, the first Sunday of the Church's year, as we prepare for our celebration of the birth of Christ, we make Christingles, which represent the light of Christ in the world, as well as lighting the first candle on our Advent wreath. As usual, the service will include hymns and songs, a reading from the Bible and a short address, and refreshments will be served afterwards.

Services during the week

Holy Communion is celebrated at 10.00am on Wednesdays in the Lady Chapel (CW) and on Fridays at 8.00am in the vestry (BCP). Do join us!

Next Sunday, 8th December

The Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am Parish Communion

President and Preacher: The Revd Michael Camp

In Memoriam

The funeral of **Judith Kirby** will take place on Friday 6th December at 11.00am at St John's. Please pray for Idris and the family at this time of loss.

Advent Boxes

Our Advent Boxes this year are for the Save the Children Middle East Appeal. Do please take a box and bring it back (full!) after Christmas. You can find information about the appeal at <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/how-you-can-help/emergencies/gaza-crisis>

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 Churchwarden or the Parish Administrator in a sealed envelope marked 'Christmas Cheer' if possible by **11am on Sunday 8th December** please, although 15th is not too late. All such donations will be gratefully received and will be distributed in time for Christmas.

Village Carol Service

Monday 16th December at 7.30pm

Do put the Carol Service in your diary! Additional singers are welcome to join the choir for two of the four choir carols. You would need to attend two rehearsals on Thursday 5th December 7.00 for 7.15-7.45 and Thursday 12th December at the same time. You would also need to arrive early on the day for rehearsal before the service. If you would like to sing, please contact Stuart Robinson direct on stuart@stuartrobinson.co.uk in advance of the first rehearsal, stating which part you sing.

Crib Service

Christmas Eve at 4.00pm

Do come to our annual Crib Service and hear once again the familiar story of the birth of Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem, through readings and carols. Children are invited to come dressed as angels, shepherds or wise men so that those who wish can participate actively in the telling of the story. A great way to begin your celebration of Christmas!

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The Collect for the First Sunday of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Reading: Mark 13. 24-26, 32-37

'In the days after that time of trouble the sun will grow dark, the moon will no longer shine, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers in space will be driven from their courses. Then the Son of Man will appear, coming in the clouds with great power and glory. He will send the angels out to the four corners of the earth to gather God's chosen people from one end of the world to the other.

'No one knows when that day or hour will come – neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son; only the Father knows. Be on watch, be alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It will be like a man who goes away from home on a trip and leaves his servants in charge, after giving to each one his own work to do and after telling the doorkeeper to keep watch. Watch, then, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming – it might be in the evening or at midnight or before dawn or at sunrise. If he comes suddenly, he must not find you asleep. What I say to you, then, I say to all: Watch!'

For your prayers

As Advent leads us to Christmas, we reflect on the different way it will be celebrated in our linked diocese of Cueibet, South Sudan, and we pray for real peace therein.

Please pray for the children of Gaza and Lebanon, and for the work of Save the Children there.

Loving God, we pray for the terminally ill and for all who are nearing the end of their lives, that you would be close to those who are suffering and afraid. We pray for those caring for the dying, that you would comfort the grieving and the alone. We pray that all people would know the peace that is found in your presence and the hope that is found in your name.



Advent candles tell their story

as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness
changed for gladness on that Day.

2 Prophet voices loudly crying,
making pathways clear;
glimpsing glory, self-denying,
calling all to hear.
Through their message - challenged, shaken -
hearts awaken: God is near!

3 John the Baptist, by his preaching
and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching
news of hope restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady,
and be ready for the Lord.'

4 Mary's gift, beyond all telling,
was to give Christ room.
She gave God a human dwelling
in a mother's womb.
Who could guess the final story?
cross and glory; empty tomb!

The orange of Christingle the world reminds us of,
And how our God created us, And on us sheds his love.

*O sing about Christingle, Your voices loud employ.
Your praises bring to God our King; For Jesus and his joy.*

- 2 The candle of Christingle, With shining flame so bright;
Reminds us of our loving Lord Who is the world's true light.
- 3 The red band of Christingle Which plainly we can see;
Reminds us of how Jesus Christ was killed upon that tree.
- 4 The four sticks of Christingle, With which the orb we spear,
Remind us how God cares for us,
thro' the seasons of the year.
- 5 The whole of the Christingle, It is a joy to see;
It shines to show how our Father God, Loves even you and me.

Round orange, round orange, you serve as a sign
That God made the round world with purpose divine.
*The power of love is always the same:
Be glad, give thanks, rejoice in God's name.*

- 2 Red ribbon, you tell of the bloodshed and pain
Which led to forgiveness when Jesus was slain.
- 3 Ripe fruits, freely given, this truth you recall,
When God hands out presents they're meant for us all.
- 4 Bright candle, the message you carry is clear,
The true light from God found a home with us here.
- 5 Christingle, Christingle, shine out in the night
To kindle among us that marvellous light.