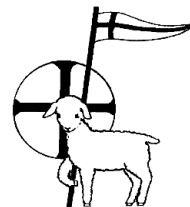


St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury

reflecting Jesus Christ



Sunday 15th December 2024

**The Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday**

Today's Service

9.30am Parish Communion

President and Preacher: The Revd Joanna Naish

Setting: The Brecon Service *Philip Moore*

Hymns: 16 (omit vs 3) Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling; 5 Hark a herald voice is calling;

Modal Alleluia and Gospel Advent Sentence *Daniel Ficarri / Stuart Robinson*

12 On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry During Communion: Creator of the stars of night *Malcolm Archer*

Final hymn: 7 Hills of the north rejoice

Recessional: Zion hears the watchmen's voices (from Cantata 140) *JS Bach*

There is no service of Choral Evensong today

Monday 16th December

7.30pm Village Carol Service

Tisbury Christian Council invites you to the annual carol service, held in St John's. Come and hear again the Christmas story, told through readings from the Bible, music sung by the choir and well-known carols for us all to sing. There will be a collection for the Trussell Trust – please bring cash if you can. Seasonal refreshments will be served in the Hinton Hall after the service.

Other services during the week

Holy Communion is celebrated at 10.00am on Wednesdays (CW) and on Fridays at 8.00am (BCP) in St Andrew's Chapel. Do join us!

Next Sunday, 22nd December

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)

President: The Revd Elaine Brightwell

9.30am Parish Communion

President and Preacher: The Revd Canon Michael Goater

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 – last call for donations

It's not too late to donate for needy individuals or families in Tisbury, to help them have a more cheerful Christmas than they otherwise would have had. You are invited to hand your donation (in cash please) to a Churchwarden or the Parish Administrator in a sealed envelope marked 'Christmas Cheer' by Sunday 15th December if possible. All such donations will be gratefully received and will be distributed in time for Christmas. Thank you very much to those who have already donated!

Christmas Charities Fair

A huge thank you to Sally and the team for the wonderful Christmas Fair held in the Hinton Hall at the end of November. The magnificent sum of £1375.44 was raised for the church, and the charities also made good amounts.

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Anthony Lovell-Wood, Churchwarden
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 First 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 judgements 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.

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 an end to the self-interest, intolerance and hatred that leads to war, and for peace to come to all nations and regions where there is war or unrest. We pray for all those whose lives are blighted by war, that relief may come.

A prayer for ourselves:

Heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer, that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Saviour's birth to penetrate our hearts and minds. So may our joy be deeper, our worship more real, and our lives worthier of all that you have done for us through the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.



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!

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service (see above)
10.00pm The First Eucharist of Christmas

Christmas Day

9.30am Parish Communion

