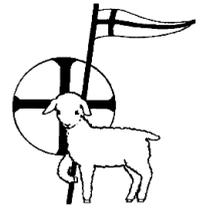


# St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury

reflecting Jesus Christ



**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**The Third Sunday of Advent**

9.30am Parish Communion

President and Preacher: The Ven Louise Ellis, Archdeacon of Wilts

We welcome the Ven Louise Ellis, Archdeacon of Wilts, as our President and Preacher this morning. There is no longer an Archdeacon of Sarum – the Archdeacon of Wilts, working alongside Bishop Andrew, now covers the whole of the Ramsbury Area.

Setting: The Brecon Service *Philip Moore*

Processional Hymn: 5 Hark! a herald voice is calling (*descant Mahon*)

Gradual Hymn: 3 Come, thou long expected Jesus

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

Offertory Hymn: 12 On Jordan's banks the Baptist's cry (*descant Mahon*)

During Communion: O radiant dawn *James MacMillan*

Final Hymn: 9 Lo, he comes with clouds descending (*descant Mahon*)

Organ Voluntary: Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich hier *J Pachelbel*



**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

7.30pm Village Carol Service

We look forward to welcoming you, along with members of the other Tisbury churches and of the wider community, to the annual Village Carol Service. There will be the traditional readings, interspersed with Christmas music sung by the choir and well-known carols for all to sing. Seasonal refreshments will be served afterwards.

There will be a collection during the service for Weldmar Hospicecare.

## Other services during the week

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

**Next Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> December**

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9.30am Parish Communion

President and Preacher: The Revd Joanna Naish

Please note, as is our custom in December, there is no service of Choral Evensong this month.



## Christmas Services

**Christmas Eve**

4.00pm Crib Service

10.00pm The First Eucharist of Christmas

**Christmas Day**

9.30am Parish Communion



## Advent Boxes

Our Advent Boxes this year are for Salisbury Hospice, <https://www.salisburyhospicecharity.org.uk> Do please take a box and bring it back (full!) after Christmas.

John Dalton, Churchwarden  
Anthony Lovell-Wood, Churchwarden  
Canon Judy Anderson, Parish Administrator

johnrollodalton@outlook.com  
woodringer@btinternet.com  
tisburyparishchurch@gmail.com

01747 871047  
01747 871121  
01747 873142

[www.tisburyparishchurch.org](http://www.tisburyparishchurch.org)

## 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: Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## The Gospel: Matthew 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

## 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 there and across the whole of Sudan and South Sudan.

Please continue to pray for an assured and lasting peace among all nations. May wars end, and may hope be in the lives of all people who rebuild from the tragedies of conflict, gun violence and war.

We pray for people who sleep under cardboard on the streets of our towns and cities. May the lives of God's poor find warmth, shelter, food and clothing in these cold winter months.

A prayer for the third week of Advent:

Everlasting God, as we continue to prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for time to be quiet where we can, and, through prayer and reflection, to appreciate the wonder of your love. As we revisit the story of Jesus' birth through our Advent devotions, deepen our joy, invigorate our prayers and our praise, and help that story to challenge the way that we live our lives.



## Christmas Cheer

Thanks to your generosity over the last few years, we already have funds to help needy individuals or families in Tisbury to have a more cheerful Christmas than they otherwise would have had, so we don't need to ask for donations this year. Money will be distributed in time for Christmas.