

In & around the Benefice....

2nd December | First Sunday of Advent

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Worship in our churches.....

Today...

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|---------|------------------|------------------------|
| 8.00am | Whiston | BCP Holy Communion |
| 9.00am | Denton | Holy Communion |
| 11.00am | Grendon | All Age Holy Communion |
| 4.00pm | Yardley Hastings | Christingle |

Next week 9th December, 2nd Sunday of Advent ...

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| 9.00am | Yardley Hastings | Holy Communion |
| 11.00am | Castle Ashby | Holy Communion |
| 3.00pm | Denton | Christingle |
| 5.00pm | Grendon | Christingle |

Midweek Services

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| Weds | 9.30am | Grendon | Holy Communion |
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Advent – a time of preparation



Advent is fast approaching!
To help us to draw closer to God as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas, we will be hosting three bible study sessions entitled **'Candles in the Dark'**, on:
Saturday 1st December
Saturday 8th December
Saturday 15th December
9.30am – 10.45am (at the very latest)
in the meeting room at
St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings.

Everyone from across the benefice is warmly invited to any or all of the sessions

Please hold in your prayers this week...

- ◇ Our Bishops Donald, John and Ed
- ◇ Our Benefice Choir and Organists: Glyn, Richard, Sue and Darren
- ◇ Little Fishes and Denton after school club, the children, parents and helpers
- ◇ Our politicians and government - may God's guidance and wisdom be with them
- ◇ Those in residential care and the housebound, among them: Gwen Brimacombe, Audrey Desborough, Betty Eyre, Tom Stocks, Ruth Williams and Gwen York
- ◇ Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them: , Delsie Greasley, Daniel Rouffaud, Michelle, Nicholas Vaughan, Ashleigh Loach, Guy Miller
- ◇ The recently departed, among them Tony Smith, and all who grieve at this time

Christmas Services

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| 2nd | Christingle | 4pm | Yardley Hastings |
| 9th | Christingle | 3pm | Denton |
| 9th | Christingle | 5pm | Grendon |
| 13th | Carols by candlelight | 8pm | Whiston |
| 15th | Blue Christmas | 4pm | Yardley Hastings |
| 16th | Crib Service | 4pm | Yardley Hastings |
| 19th | Carols by candlelight | 7pm | Denton |
| 21st | Carol Service | 7pm | Grendon |
| 21st | Carols around the Christmas tree | 7pm | Yardley Hastings |
| 24th | Crib Service | 4pm | Grendon |
| 24th | Carols by candlelight | 5pm | URC |
| 24th | Carol Service | 6pm | Castle Ashby |
| 24th | Midnight Mass | 11.30pm | Yardley Hastings |
| 25th | Holy Communion | 9am | Whiston |
| 25th | Holy Communion | 9am | Denton |
| 25th | Family Holy Communion | 10am | Grendon |
| 25th | Christmas Day Celebration | 10am | URC |
| 25th | Holy Communion | 10am | Yardley Hastings |
| 25th | Holy Communion | 11am | Castle Ashby |
| 30th | United Benefice Service | 11am | URC |

Dates for the Diary...

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| Weds | 5th | 11.00am | Little Fishes, St Mary's Grendon |
| Weds | 5th | 7.30pm | St Mary's Community Choir, St Mary's Grendon |
| Weds | 5th | 7.45pm | Benefice Choir Practice, St Andrew's Yardley Hastings |
| Thurs | 6th | 7.00pm | Churchwardens' Meeting |
| Fri | 7th | 10am-12 | 'The Place to Meet' - cuppa and chat with fellow villagers, Grendon Village Hall |
| Sat | 8th | 9.30am | Advent - A Time of Preparation, St Andrew's Yardley Hastings |
| Sat | 8th | 3.00pm | Marriage of Jo Mathers and Adam West at St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby |
| Tues | 11th | 12.00noon | Funeral Service for Mr Tony Smith RIP, St Mary's Grendon |
| Thurs | 13th | 6.30pm | Youth Group, St Mary's Grendon |
| Fri | 14th | 3.30pm | Denton After School Club Nativity Walk - meet outside village hall, Denton |

The Collect

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**

(or)

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

First Reading

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 21: 25-36

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus said to his disciples:

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await
the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his
service and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen