

In & around the Benefice....

16th December | Third Sunday of Advent

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Worship in our churches.....

Today...

8.00am	Whiston	BCP Holy Communion
9.00am	Grendon	Holy Communion
11.00am	Denton	All Age Holy Communion
4.00pm	Yardley Hastings	Crib Service

Next week 23rd December, 4th Sunday of Advent ...

9.00am	Castle Ashby	Holy Communion
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Midweek Services

Weds	9.30am	Grendon	Holy Communion
Weds	7.00pm	Denton	Carols by candlelight
Fri	7.00pm	Grendon	Carol Service
Fri	7.00pm	Yardley	Carols around the tree

Advent – a time of preparation



Advent is here!

To help us to draw closer to God as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas, we have been hosting bible study sessions entitled:

'Candles in the Dark'

The last session will be on Saturday 5th January 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

Please hold in your prayers this week...

- ◇ Our Bishops Donald, John and Ed
- ◇ Deborah and Liz, training for licensed ministry in our benefice.
- ◇ Messy Church, 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, 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, Betty Eyre
- ◇ The recently departed, among them Anthony Smith, Linda Coyne and all who grieve at this time

Christmas Services

Dec

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...

Tues	18th	6.00pm	Carol singing around Denton: starting in St Margaret's Church, ending with festive refreshments at the Old Quart Pot. Proceeds in aid of the Children's Society
Weds	19th	7.30pm	St Mary's Community Choir, St Mary's Grendon
Weds	19th	7.45pm	Benefice Choir Practice, St Andrew's Yardley Hastings



January

Fri	4th	10am-12	'The Place to Meet' - cuppa and chat with fellow villagers, Grendon Village Hall
Sat	5th	9.30am	Advent - A Time of Preparation, St Andrew's Yardley Hastings

The Collect

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**

(or)

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Philippians 4: 4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 3: 7-18

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

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Amen