

# *In & around the Benefice....*

*8th December | Second Sunday of Advent*

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## **Worship in our churches.....**

### **Today...**

9.00am	Holy Communion	Yardley Hastings
11.00am	Holy Communion	Castle Ashby
4.00pm	Christingle	Denton
4.00pm	Christingle	Grendon
4.00pm	Christingle	Yardley Hastings



### **Next week 15th December, Third Sunday of Advent...**

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

### **Midweek Services**

Weds	9.30am	Holy Communion	Grendon
Thurs	8.00pm	Carol Service	Whiston
Fri	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Denton

### **Carol Services in the benefice:**

Dec 12th	8pm	Whiston
Dec 22nd	5pm	Denton
Dec 22nd	7pm	Grendon
Dec 22nd	7pm	Yardley Hastings
Dec 24th	6pm	Castle Ashby

## **Please hold in your prayers this week...**

- ◇ Candidates and voters as our nation prepares for the upcoming general election
- ◇ The natural world, that God's love for all he has made might be reflected in our care for the planet.
- ◇ Persecuted Christians across the world, especially in North Korea
- ◇ Those in residential care and the housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Gwen York
- ◇ Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them: Ann and Colin Dix, Edith O'Loughlin, Chris Sayles, Tom Stock, Nicholas Vaughan, Esme Handley, Jonathan Pearson, Freddie Hogan, Diane Claber, Mandy Bates, Lilian Parry
- ◇ The recently departed, among them Terry Adams, Kate Moravesky, Mary Bolwell, Martin Pendered, Vilma York and all who grieve at this time

## **Dates for the Diary...**

Weds	11th	7.45pm	Benefice Choir practice, St Andrew's Yardley Hastings
Thurs	12th	8.00pm	Carol Service at Whiston
Fri	13th	6.30pm	Carols at the bus stop, Castle Ashby
Tues	17th	6.00pm	Carol singing around Denton, meet at the church.
Weds	18th	6.45pm	Carol singing around Grendon, meet at The Village Hall
Thurs	19th	6.30-8pm	Youth Group, St Mary's Grendon
Fri	20th	3.30pm	Nativity Walk, Denton. Meet at the Village Hall car park
Sat	21st	5.00pm	Blue Christmas Service-a time for quiet reflection, remembrance and hope at St Mary's Grendon

## ***Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Services : See website/ parish magazine***

Sun	29th	10.00am	Benefice Service at URC, Yardley Hastings
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## The Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

**Amen**

(or)

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

**Amen**

## First Reading

*Isaiah 11: 1-10*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*Romans 15: 4-13*

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

*Matthew 3: 1-12*

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

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume 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. 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Post Communion

Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**