

In & around the Benefice....

15th December | Third Sunday of Advent

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Worship in our churches.....

Today...

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

Next week 22nd December, Fourth Sunday of Advent...

9.00am	Holy Communion	Castle Ashby
11.00am	Holy Communion	Yardley Hastings
5.00pm	Carol Service	Denton
7.00pm	Carol Service	Grendon
7.00pm	Carol Service	Yardley Hastings

Midweek Services

Weds	9.30am	Holy Communion	Grendon
Fri	9.30am	Morning Prayer	Denton
Sat	5.00pm	Blue Christmas Service	Grendon

Christmas Eve

Crib Service	4pm	Grendon
Carol Service	6pm	Castle Ashby
Midnight Mass	11.30pm	Denton

Christmas Day

BCP Eucharist	9am	Whiston
All Age Holy Communion	10am	Grendon
All Age Holy Communion	10am	Yardley
Holy Communion	11am	Castle Ashby

Please hold in your prayers this week...

- ◇ The newly elected members of parliament as they take up their duties.
- ◇ 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, Freddie Hogan, Diane Claber, Mandy Bates, Lilian Parry
- ◇ The recently departed, among them Jonathan Pearson, and all who grieve at this time

Dates for the Diary...

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
Weds	18th	7.45pm	Benefice Choir practice, St Andrew's Yardley Hastings
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

Sun 22nd *Carol services around the benefice - see above*

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Services : See above

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

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

James 5: 7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11: 2-11

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

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.

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