

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

*15th November | Second Sunday before Advent*



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What is your most prized possession? Something that you treasure? Is it something very old or quite new? Is it something that you were given or something you bought for yourself? Is it valuable? Lots of questions, I know! The thing that comes to mind for me is undoubtedly a pink (well he was once!) rabbit, which I received days after I was born; he was given the name Bunny. As a baby, Bunny was slipped into my cot beside me as I slept. As a child I was encouraged to talk to Bunny and tell him all of my woes! I have very fond memories of Bunny throughout my childhood - not least the one where he was missing when we were camping and my sister found him in the shower block! It would break my heart if anything happened to cause him damage - he needs handling with care. Thinking about those things we cherish and how we would feel if they are damaged perhaps helps us to see something of how God feels about our world and about us. God wants us to cherish it, and one another. God wants us to grow in our understanding and faith. God wants to be able to trust us with the jewel that is God's love for all people. God wants us to handle it with care, and share it - certainly not to hide it. How do we share that love at the moment? What random act of kindness is God calling you to commit to this week to share the love of God out in your village? May we all carry it out with a childlike enthusiasm and love for those on the receiving end!

*Every Blessing, Morna*

***In line with national guidelines we have suspended all worship taking place in our buildings.***  
*Please note that St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings is open for private prayer during daylight hours on Sundays and Wednesdays, and St Mary's Grendon is open for private prayer between 10am and 2pm, also on Sundays and Wednesdays.*

**Benefice Zoom Service** - This Sunday Rev'd Morna will be taking our service. Please could you bring some bread and wine as we will be remembering Jesus in a number of different ways. The details to join are:

Topic: Benefice Zoom Service, Time: Nov 15, 2020 10:00 AM London  
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85055138590?pwd=T0RjamtY2l0QzN5cW9Wd0FaTGvQz09>  
Meeting ID: 850 5513 859 Passcode: 100759

**Zoom Coffee Morning** - Tea and Theology - Don't worry, this won't be anything too heavy, more a space for us to pray together and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, and it's the name of Rev'd Morna's blog! If you are interested please join us on Zoom on Wednesday mornings from 9:30am for about an hour.

Topic: Tea and Theology, Time: This is a recurring meeting on Wednesdays from 9:30am  
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6838782280?pwd=aGZlSnJLZU91blg2cXhpcnk1aHFOQT09>  
Meeting ID: 683 878 2280 Passcode: 661196

**Morning Prayer on Zoom** - Would anyone like to begin the day in prayer together? Rev'd Morna is now offering Morning Prayer on Zoom, usually Sunday to Thursday, from 7:30am. The service lasts no more than 30 minutes. If you are interested in joining her, please use these joining instructions:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6838782280?pwd=aGZlSnJLZU91blg2cXhpcnk1aHFOQT09>  
Meeting ID: 683 878 2280 Passcode: 661196

You will need either the Daily Prayer app or Common Worship Daily Prayer book - do be in touch with Morna to let her know that you are planning to join, or if you need help finding the app, or prayer book. She will also send you a song sheet which will be used in the service.

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT:**

*Congratulations to Mr Richard Tapp who has been appointed as a Lay Member of Chapter of Peterborough Cathedral and was collated as a Lay Canon of Peterborough Cathedral on 5 November 2020.  
He will be installed at a later date.*

**Please hold in your prayers this week:**

- ◇ Richard Tapp as he embarks on his new ministry as lay canon
- ◇ All in our villages as we face a second national lockdown
- ◇ The schools in our Benefice, the headteachers John Wayland and Louise Brown and the staff as they endeavour to make school a welcoming and safe environment for all the children
- ◇ The young people from our Benefice who are living away from home, that they keep safe in these uncertain times.
- ◇ The health and well-being of our nation, that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry.
- ◇ Those suffering from, affected by or working to prevent the spread of Coronavirus
- ◇ NHS staff caring for Covid-19 patients, that they may have strength and resilience for their task, and be kept safe
- ◇ Persecuted Christians across the world, especially in North Korea
- ◇ Those in residential care and the housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Gwen York, Ann and Colin Dix
- ◇ Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them: Tom Stock, Nicholas Vaughan, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Muriel Coulson, Thelma Denton, Malc Wright
- ◇ The recently departed, amongst them Margaret Rigby-Smith and Chris Wordsworth, and all who grieve at this time



This line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

## The Collect

Heavenly Lord,  
you long for the world's salvation:  
stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in  
us new hope that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## First Reading

*Zephaniah 1: 7,12-18*

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is  
at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has  
consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will  
punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,

'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.'  
Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid  
waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit  
them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink  
wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening  
fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior  
cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of  
distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day  
of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick  
darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against  
the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk  
like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh  
like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to  
save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his  
passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a  
terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11*

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and  
sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you.  
For you yourselves know very well that the day of the  
Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say,  
'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will  
come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant  
woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved,  
are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a  
thief; for you are all children of light and children of the  
day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us  
not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be  
sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who  
are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the  
day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith  
and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God  
has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that  
whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.  
Therefore encourage one another and build up each  
other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

*Matthew 25: 14-30*

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

Jesus said to his disciples,

'The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a  
journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property  
to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to  
another one, to each according to his ability. Then he  
went away. The one who had received the five talents  
went off at once and traded with them, and made five  
more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two  
talents made two more talents. But the one who had  
received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the  
ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the  
master of those slaves came and settled accounts with  
them. Then the one who had received the five talents  
came forward, bringing five more talents, saying,  
"Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have  
made five more talents."

His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy  
slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put  
you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your  
master."

And the one with the two talents also came forward,  
saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see,  
I have made two more talents."

His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy  
slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put  
you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your  
master."

Then the one who had received the one talent also came  
forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh  
man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering  
where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I  
went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have  
what is yours."

But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You  
knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather  
where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested  
my money with the bankers, and on my return I would  
have received what was my own with interest. So take the  
talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten  
talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and  
they will have an abundance; but from those who have  
nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for  
this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness,  
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." '

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Post Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord,  
in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope:  
bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we  
long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour..

**Amen**