

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

*6th December | Second Sunday of Advent*

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[www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk](http://www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk)



**New Benefice Twitter account:** If you are on Twitter, please follow us **@BeneficeYardley** and keep in touch with the photography challenge and other events around the benefice.

***Please note: Rev'd Morna is on leave until Wednesday 9th December.***

***Contact Rev'd Janet or your churchwarden if anything cannot wait until her return.***

**Worship in our churches today** - 10am Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings

**Benefice Zoom Service** - This Sunday Rev'd Amanda will be taking our service. The details to join are:

Topic: Benefice service 6th December 2020

Time: Dec 6, 2020 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89401603850?pwd=bzdFMktEeHJxdndVVDI0d0JadW1Rdz09>

Meeting ID: 894 0160 3850

Passcode: 066485

**Tea and Theology** - Tuesdays at 3pm

Starting on Tuesday 8th December at 3pm, we will meet for an informal chat on Zoom about the advent photography challenge. All are welcome! Please email me photos for us to talk about and we can also look at some of the photos that have been on Twitter and Facebook. We plan to meet every Tuesday at 3pm, do join us if you can, bring a cuppa and pets are always welcome! Liz. ([liztyardley@aol.com](mailto:liztyardley@aol.com))

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8644325282?pwd=cEhJcXR6bFc4QmNDMlpiNnFUMXB6UT09>

Meeting ID: 864 432 5282

Passcode: tuesday

**Midweek Eucharist** - Wednesday 9th December, 9.30am at St Mary's Grendon

**Morning Prayer** - This week just on Wednesday and Thursday at 8.30am

This is a lovely holy space where a few of us gather to begin the day in prayer. The service includes reading the psalms, and the set bible readings for the day as well as a time of prayer for our benefice, villages, diocese and the world beyond. It lasts no more than 30 minutes and it would be lovely if you would like to join. You are able to find the order of service for Morning Prayer each day here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

and click on the 'Morning Prayer' box. Zoom details below:

Topic: Morning Prayer

Time: This is a recurring meeting at 8:30am Monday to Thursday (just Wednesday or Thursday this week)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81991877075?pwd=Vjc5OFArWkpPVXo1NWQ1QkI3UVE3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 819 9187 7075

Passcode: 187118

**Next week, 13th December:**

10am Holy Communion at St Margaret's Denton

4pm Zoom Christingle - register by emailing [liztyardley@aol.com](mailto:liztyardley@aol.com) or [grendonchurchwardens@gmail.com](mailto:grendonchurchwardens@gmail.com)

**This Sunday is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in advent.**

In some traditions, this is the week we reflect on the message God gave to John, an older cousin of Jesus, to 'prepare the way of the Lord' and in other settings this Sunday focuses on **Peace**, (**hope** on the first Sunday, **joy** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and **love** on the 4<sup>th</sup>)

I do not know about you, but these two themes work well for me together. In order that my preparations are good and successful, I do need an element of peace in my life. Writing Christmas cards is not easy when I am distracted, following a family recipe in the kitchen is not always successful if I am interrupted or not able to focus calmly on the job at hand.

Preparing to meet our Lord Jesus, preparing to celebrate our God in human form, preparing to welcome the Christ child anew, takes intention, time, and peace. Sometimes, although many of us are currently alone, it is hard to be peaceful, to be quiet and calm, when our heads are screaming. Our disappointments, anxieties, exhaustion and worries just fill us from the boots upwards, and we cry out in our own desert..... show me the way of the Lord!!

Take heart, take time, sit with your favourite carol or reading, let the words and music wash over you....

Be still and know you are deeply loved. And may His peace, that is beyond our understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the loving arms of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we may be prepared to make way for His coming this Christmas.

**Rev'd Amanda**

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

- Each of our villages as we make sense of new regulations
- Pubs and other businesses in our area who may be finding these times very difficult
- The schools in our benefice:
  - \* Grendon C of E Primary School with John Wayland their Headteacher and Charlotte French their Deputy Head, the staff and pupils
  - \* Denton Primary School with Louise Brown their Headteacher, the staff and pupils
  - \* Yardley Hastings Primary School with Louise Brown their Headteacher, the staff and pupils
- Those areas in the Midlands and the North of England who find themselves in Tier 3
- Businesses and those who are struggling to make ends meet
- The health and well-being of our nation, all who are fearful and anxious
- Those who are suffering from or affected by the COVID-19
- Those who are suffering with non-COVID-19 related illnesses, and are afraid to seek help
- NHS staff caring for COVID-19 patients, that they may have strength and resilience
- Those living in North Korea, who are not free to make their own decisions
- Those who are in residential care or housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Gwen York, Ann and Colin Dix
- Those struggling in body, mind or spirit, among them: Jane Cave, Tom Stock, Nicholas Vaughan, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Muriel Coulson, Malc Wright
- The recently departed, amongst them Avril Chick and Norma Knight, and all who grieve at this time

**If you are looking for some activities for your children / grandchildren as we continue our journey through advent towards Christmas, visit our advent website. Each day has ideas and activities to try at home:**

<https://sites.google.com/view/yardleyhastingsbenefice>



This advent, why not try taking a photograph each day with the word for each day to inspire you?

If you are on social media you could post them each day.

If not, keep them and bring them to 'Tea and Theology' to talk about.

Please do email Liz or Rev Morna with particular photographs which have inspired you!

**Thank you to all those who have already entered into the spirit of this challenge and shared photos, please keep them coming!**

## **The Collect**

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 40: 1-11*

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her  
that she has served her term, that her penalty is  
paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain  
and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall  
become level, and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all  
people shall see it together, for the mouth of  
the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says,

'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass, their constancy is like the  
flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower  
fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of  
our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of  
good tidings; lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not  
fear; say to the cities of Judah,  
'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm  
rules for him; his reward is with him, and his  
recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather  
the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading**

*2 Peter 3: 8-15a*

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the  
Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a  
thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not  
slow about his promise, as some think of slowness,  
but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish,  
but all to come to repentance. But the day of the  
Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will  
pass away with a loud noise,

and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the  
earth and everything that is done on it will be  
disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this  
way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading  
lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and  
hastening the coming of the day of God, because of  
which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved,  
and the elements will melt with fire? But, in  
accordance with his promise, we wait for new  
heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at  
home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these  
things, strive to be found by him at peace, without  
spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord  
as salvation.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Reading**

*Mark 1: 1-8*

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

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the  
Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying  
out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths  
straight" ,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness,  
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the  
forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole  
Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem  
were going out to him, and were baptized by him in  
the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John  
was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt  
around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild  
honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more  
powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy  
to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I  
have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you  
with the Holy Spirit.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Post Communion Prayer**

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**