

Parish News

Sunday 13th December 2020

3rd Sunday of Advent

Parish Clergy

Revd Vicky Fleming 01543 502857 (Not Fridays)

Revd Gill Joynson 01543 502131

Parish Office 01543 502131

Mon– Fri leave message on
machine and we will call you back

Email: stlukesparish@btconnect.com

<http://www.stlukescannock.org.uk>

It is so frustrating trying to make contact with Vicars so Vicky will endeavour to be in her study every evening except Fridays and Sundays between 6pm and 7pm so that you can be sure of speaking to her. You are welcome to ring at other times but you may have to leave a message!

Important Reminder

If you like a member of the Pastoral Care Team to make contact with you, or anyone you know in need, you should inform the Parish Office. Because of Data Protection legislation access to contact details is restricted and so the person concerned must give permission.

Collect

○ 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.

First Reading - *Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11*

The servant of the Lord said:

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

²**to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,**
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to provide for those who mourn in Zion –
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,

they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Second Reading– John 1.6-8,19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and **Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’** ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, ‘I am not the Messiah.’ ²¹And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the prophet?’ He

answered, 'No.' ²²Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' ²³He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"',

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' ²⁶John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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.



The Cross in My Pocket—a lovely small gift to give to friends and neighbours who may need encouragement in these difficult days. Handmade cross-stitch pockets with poem are available to buy £1.25 each at the back of the **church. Funds going to St. Luke's Church**



Advent Promise—Advent Bible Study online led by Rev. George Fleming. Study notes and video can be found on the 'Bible Studies' page of our website. Please look at the notes prior to watching.



Please continue to support the foodbank by donating during these difficult times. The foodbank needs the following per week to ensure there are sufficient stocks. Please donate if you can. Every week they need:

- **200 BOXES OF CEREALS**
 - **600 TINS OF BEANS**
 - **170 TINS OF TOMATOES**
 - **552 TINS OF MEAT**
- **410 TINS OF RICE PUDDING**
 - **410 TINS OF FRUIT**
 - **205 JARS OF JAM**
 - **255 PACKS OF BISCUITS**
- **355 BOTTLES OF JUICE/SQUASH**
 - **255 BOTTLES OF UHT MILK**

If you can help by bringing these items the box is at the back of Church **It would be good to include some Christmas treats too.** Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE

We are under Tier 3 restrictions be extra careful.

Remember **HANDS, FACE AND SPACE**

If you take risks you are not caring for others!

We are the body of Christ and everyone is important.

This month we give thanks for all those who give of their time, talents and treasures to the work of the Kingdom. There are many people who have not been able to give of their time and talents because of the pandemic—we all miss the social and fundraising side of our community and hopefully the good news about vaccines will mean we shall return to something like **'normal' in the new year. We are so grateful to those who give** of their treasures at this difficult time. As our finances are in a bad way, we give thanks for every penny we receive. Please remember with thanksgiving all the folk who make up our communities and enable us to put Christ at the centre.

A Prayer:

At this time when we remember the wonderful gift of love you have given us in the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, we are thankful for all the gifts you give each one of us—gifts of time, talents and treasure. Thank you that everyone is important in the body of Christ and bless us as we seek to build Community with Christ at the centre. Amen



Dear Friends

O come, O come, Emmanuel,

The opening lines of that great Advent hymn. This year we may be forgiven for changing the word Emmanuel to: a vaccine/an end to Covid/end of lockdowns.

Never have the themes of Advent - waiting, preparation, hope – been so poignant, as they have this year. Advent - the time when we focus on the prophecies that foretold of the coming of the Messiah, and we prepare for his coming as the baby born in Bethlehem. But we often forget that **we are also waiting for Jesus' second coming. Our focus is both on the past and on the future.**

Waiting is much easier when we know how long it's for. When there is an end in sight, we can prepare, organise ourselves and make sure we are ready. But if there is no end in sight what do we do in the meantime? How do we live our lives? If the waiting is lengthy we may forget what we are waiting for or not even recognise when it is over. Can we bear to wait for so long or do we turn away, forget about it and do something else instead? All these themes we find in our Advent **readings. God's people waited for so long that their idea of who the** Messiah would be and what he would do became distorted so that they did not recognise him when he arrived. They had lost hope and narrowed God into a particular picture that fitted their hopes. We should learn from this and be wary. In order to wait, when there is no end in sight, we need to have hope, If we have no hope, then there is no reason for waiting or any need to prepare because what are we waiting for? Hope gives us a reason and purpose and our hope is in God. We should use this time of waiting to focus on God, get to know him better, to hope and trust in him, and to recognise his divine influence in our world, and in our lives. To trust that, in the end, all will be well. That way when Jesus comes again we will be able to recognise him, because we know him.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*

Shall come to thee.

Or the vaccine or end of lockdowns!

Gill Joynton



Services this Christmas

Sunday 13th December 10.00am

Morning Prayer St Luke's Church

Online Church of England Christingle Service (9.00am)

Or streamed later on Church of England website, Facebook

Sunday 20th December 10.00am

Holy Communion

6.00pm Online sing along with Carols and Readings

St Luke's Facebook and Website

24th December 11.30pm

First Communion of Christmas (Bookings Only)

Christmas Day 10.00am

Holy Communion (Bookings Only)

If you wish to come to either the First Communion of Christmas 11.30pm on 24th or 10am Holy Communion on Christmas day please book by telling the office. Thank you

Christmas 1 - 27th December 10am

Holy Communion