



3rd December 2023
1st Sunday of Advent

St James' Church
www.stjamesexeter.org Exeter

Rector

Fr Henry Pryse 01392 431297
Day Off: Thursday

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Charity register number: 1128877

Notices

Mince Pies

Please add your name to the list at the back of the church if you are able to provide a few mince pies to be served after the carol service on 17th December.

Advent Extra

This helpful magazine is available at the back of the church. A donation of £3 in the wall safe or by card is suggested.

Making the Church Beautiful

Volunteers to arrange the flowers in the church are needed for April and May 2024. Could you help for a week or two? Please see Liz Holland or Pat Snell.

Advent Wreath Prayer

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, born in David's city of Bethlehem, born like him to be king: be born in our hearts this Christmastide, be king of our lives today.

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

10.00 am Music

Entrance hymn	247	Hark! A Herald Voice is Calling
Offertory hymn	12	All for Jesus!
Recessional hymn	399	Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

This Week

Morning Prayer is said at 8.30 am

Online: Mon, Wed

In the church: Tue, Thu, Fri

Mon 4th December Matthew 8: 5 – 11
7.00 pm Choir practice

Tue 5th December Luke 10: 21 – 24

Wed 6th December Matthew 15: 29 – 37
12.00 noon Holy Communion
3.30 pm Messy Church

Thu 7th December
Matthew 7: 21 & 24 – 27
7.30 pm Fr Brian's house group

Fri 8th December Matthew 9: 27 – 31

Sat 9th December
Matthew 9: 35 – 10: 1 & 6 – 8

Next Sunday: 10th December

2nd Sunday of Advent Mark 1: 1 – 8
8.00 am Holy Communion
10.00 am Parish Eucharist
4.00 pm Christingle Service

TODAY

4.00 pm Evening Prayer & Benediction
6.00 pm Advent carol service at Exeter Cathedral

Sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service

First Reading: Isaiah 64: 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence – as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now, consider, we are all your people.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

My brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel Reading: Mark 13: 24-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

Post-Communion Prayer

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

