

*Prayer and Bible Reading Diary for November 16 to  
December 28 2020*

**Thurs 17 Dec Isaiah 51:9-16, 2 Thess. 2, Psalm 76** We ask Your presence in each home as parents prepare, that they may give appropriate gifts to reflect that Jesus is the reason for the season.

**Fri 18 Dec Isaiah 51:17-end, 2 Thess. 3, Ps. 77** As schools break up for Christmas, grant to staff & pupils rest & joy over the Christmas break.

**Sat 19 Dec Isaiah 52:1-12, Jude, Ps. 146** We pray for Christians displaced by war and tyranny across the world, that Christmas may mean more to them as we give thanks for the Saviour come to rescue us.

**Sun 20 Dec Fourth Sunday of Advent 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16, Romans 16:25-end, Luke 1:26-38** Psalm 144 *Who is he in yonder stall, at whose feet the shepherds fall? 'Tis the Lord O wondrous story, 'Tis the Lord, the king of glory.* Bless Carol services across the benefice today we pray.

**Mon 21 Dec Isaiah 52:13-53:1-end, 2 Peter 1:1-15, Psalm 121** We pray for those who serve in the emergency services over Christmas that they may be kept safe in their ministries, & not inundated with injuries caused through foolishness.

**Tues 22 Dec Is. 54, 2 Peter 1:16-2:3, Ps. 124** Father we come to you, change our hearts and make them more like Your heart of love, generosity and truth.

**Wed 23 Dec Isaiah 55, 2 Peter 2:4-end, Psalm 130** We pray for those who have lost loved one since last Christmas that they may be comforted by grace & hope.

**Thurs 24 Dec Christmas Eve** Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-12, John 1:1-14, Ps.98 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and the government will be upon His shoulder and His name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Almighty God.

**Fri 25 Dec Christmas Day** Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:8-20, Psalm 97 *O come let us adore, Him O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.* Meet us as we celebrate Your birth.

**Sat 26 Dec St. Stephen's Day** Jeremiah 26:12-15, Acts 6, Psalm 13 As we remember the first Christian martyr, we give thanks for many more who have given their lives in recent days not denying Jesus in Syria, Iraq, Nigeria & around the world.

**Sun 27 Dec First Sunday of Christmas** Isaiah 35, Colossians 1:9-20, Luke 2:41-end, Psalm 132 *"Come, now is the time to worship, come now is the time to give Your heart; come just as you are to worship: come, just as you are before Your God, come."*

**Mon 28 Dec Holy Innocents** Genesis 37:13-20, Matthew 18:1-10 Psalm 36 We grieve the loss of so many babies, whose lives have been ended through callous disregard for Your laws; have mercy upon those who live with the guilt of sin & help them to find forgiveness, deliverance from guilt & peace with you & themselves.

**Mon 16 Nov Daniel 8:1-14, Rev. 10, Psalm 47** We give thanks for those who have been recording hymns for online services across the benefice: Lord we thank you for the blessing it has brought to others who have not been able to sing their praises in church.

**Tues 17 Nov Daniel 8:15-end, Rev. 11:1-14, Psalm 48** We give You thanks for those who have taken responsibility to help others in our villages, so that no-one misses out on necessities nor friendship.

**Wed 18 Nov Daniel 9:1-19, Rev. 11:15-end, Psalm 56** Some of us continue to meet in fellowship on Wednesday evenings sharing the scriptures and praying for one another – Lord we give thanks for the depths of friendship that come when we share are lives on prayer together.

**Thurs 19 Nov Daniel 9:20-end, Rev. 12, Psalm 62** We give thanks for scientists making new discoveries about life in our world; thank you for revealing Your creator secrets as they seek for truth.

**Fri 20 Nov Daniel 10:1-11:1, Rev. 13:1-10, Psalm 63** Lord we ask Your blessing on all who serve in our churches – churchwardens, sidespeople, cleaners, musicians, flower arrangers, Bible readers, worship leaders, prayer leaders: raise up more to serve and in so doing cause them to grow into the fullness of Christ.

**Sat 21 Nov Daniel 12, Rev. 13:11-end, Psalm 68** Lord we ask your help to all in authority, especially in government in these difficult times; help them to be truthful & sincere, avoiding data manipulation that we may be rightly informed & not misled.

**Sun 22 Nov Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Ephesians 1:15-end, Matthew 25:31-end** Psalm 95:1-7 *Faithful One, so unchanging, Ageless one, you're our Rock of Peace, Lord of all, We depend on you, we cry out to You, again and again, You are our Rock, in times of trouble, You lift us up, when we fall down, all through the storm, your love is the anchor, our hope is in You alone.*

**Mon 23 Nov Isaiah 40:1-11, Rev. 14:1-13, Psalm 96** We ask Your help in time of trouble, particularly for the family of Carol Ward, one of our bell ringers, whose funeral is today at Preston Candover,

**Tues 24 Nov Isaiah 40:12-26, Rev. 14:14-end 15, Psalm 97** Father in Heaven, Your presence in our hearts brings hope and joy in times of difficulty: stir us to stand up & trust you & not be downhearted by this present trial in our world. We rejoice that You are with us.

**Wed 25 Nov Isaiah 40:27-41:7, Rev. 16:1-11, Psalm 112** As some of us meet to pray on Wednesdays weekly together online, pour out a passion for souls upon us that we may have fresh courage to share you with others.

**Thurs 26 Nov Isaiah 41:8-20, Rev. 16:12-end, Psalm 125** As the diocesan synod meets tonight, we ask for truth to be spoken to power, for honesty to expose error and willingness to repent of wrong judgements.

**Fri 27 Nov Isaiah 41:21-42:9, Rev. 17, Psalm 139** We ask Your help for families in need in the villages: give us eyes to recognise their need, grace to meet it with tact & anonymity that they may know you are behind it.

**Sat 28 Nov Isaiah 42:10-17, Rev. 18, Psalm 145** Lord as we enter Advent, make us more aware than ever of Your coming both the first time as a babe at Bethlehem, & also as Conquering King when You return in all Your glory.

**Sun 29 Nov Isaiah 64:1-9, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-end. Psalm 80**  
*Come O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free, from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.*

**Mon 30 Nov Ezekiel 47:1-12, John 12:20-32, Psalm 47** Lord, I choose to let You direct my steps today, that I may find someone to pray for or encourage.

**Tues 1 Dec. Isaiah 43:1-13, Revelation 20, Psalm 5** bless we ask the funeral of Tony Houstoun from Cliddesden at the crematorium today.

**Wed 2 Dec Isaiah 43:14-end, Revelation 21:1-8, Psalm 7** Lord we ask for Your Holy Spirit to bring new life to those for whom lockdowns have spiralled them into depression and loneliness: give us grace to notice neighbours in need, for Jesus sake.

**Thurs 3 Dec Isaiah 44:1-8, Rev. 21:9-21, Psalm 15** We ask for Your grace to encourage those who serve us in the emergency services – Fire & Rescue, police service including our local beat officer PC Reid, & Coastguard & RNLI.

**Fri 4 Dec Isaiah 44:9-23, Rev. 21:22- 22:5, Psalm 19** We give thanks for our health services – NHS, doctors & consultants, nursing & ancillary staff, engineers & electricians: GPs, ambulance and First Responders, & dentists that their work to alleviate pain & suffering is also blessed by Your presence.

**Sat 5 Dec Isaiah 44:24-45:13, Rev. 22:6-end, Psalm 23** Lord we thank you that when we walk with you we will not be in want, we will have your guidance so we do not wander, & we will not worry.

**Sun 6 Dec Second Sunday of Advent** Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-15, Mark 1:1-8, Psalm 85:8-end *O Come O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel: redeem us as we turn to you today.* **Christingle:** we give thanks for the work of the Children's Society, bringing help to children in need: give us generous hearts and pockets as we give for their work through the Christingle celebration today – either "live" subject to rule change or "Virtual."

**Mon 7 Dec Isaiah 45:14-end, 1 Thessalonians 1, Psalm 30** We ask Your help today as we celebrate Advent in the restrictions of the current pandemic so that we remember You were born into difficult times as well.

**Tues 8 Dec Isaiah 46, 1 Thess. 2:1-12, Psalm 36** Father in heaven, guide me today in my decision making, my words & conversations, my emails & my planning that I may see your hand in it all.

**Wed 9 Dec Isaiah 47, 1 Thess. 2:13-end, Psalm 47** We pray for every Christian engaged in work today, in offices, factories, schools, medical centres, hospitals, working from home, travelling by car, lorry, flying, boat or train; help each one to be living witnesses of grace-filled living.

**Thurs 10 Dec Isaiah 48:1-11, 1 Thess. 3, Psalm 54** Lord of the harvest, as winter draws near, bless all who work on the land or who are employed indirectly, that they may be kept safe as essential maintenance is undertaken on ditches, hedges, fields & equipment.

**Fri 11 Dec Isaiah 48:12-end, 1 Thess. 4:1-12, Psalm 86** Lord Jesus, You walk beside us every day; help us remember your presence, peace, patience & power so that in all we are & do You are seen.

**Sat 12 Dec Isaiah 49:1-13, 1 Thess. 4:13-end, psalm 42** Lord I choose today to walk in step with You, to listen to Your voice & obey.

**Sun 13 Dec Third Sunday of Advent Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-end, 1 Thess. 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28, Psalm 126** *Joy to the world, the Lord has come, let earth, receive her king. Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and angels sing, and heaven and angels sing, and heaven and heaven and angels sing.*

**Mon 14 Dec Isaiah 49:14-25, 1 Thess. 5:1-11, Psalm 44** We give thanks for the opportunity to celebrate the coming of Jesus, making God known to us: we pray Your blessing on all Carol Services taking place across the benefice, in the very different circumstances we face this year.

**Tues 15 Dec Isaiah 50, 1 Thess. 5:12-end, Psalm 48** We ask Your help for families in distress this Christmas – those relying on Food banks for daily sustenance that their needs will be met; make us more generous as we know we could be one of them

**Wed 16 Dec Isaiah 51:1-8, 2 Thess. 1, Psalm 75** We pray for schools preparing for Christmas, that children may hear the real message of Jesus coming to save us.