



Notices:

A Vision for the Church of England in the 2020s

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, has been outlining a new vision for the Church of England, in which he calls for the Church to be "simpler, humbler and bolder". The three new strategic priorities for the Church are around being a church of missionary disciples, a church where the mixed ecology of many forms of church is the norm, and a church which is younger and more diverse.

Could You Inspire Others by Sharing Your Faith?

The Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity is a small charity which arranges for speakers from a variety of faiths to go into schools and other settings to run education sessions about their faith. It is currently continuing online but is short of Christian volunteers! If you would like to find out more please contact: Claire Linden, Education Officer, by telephone 01752 254438 or email education@pcfcd.co.uk

Lee Abbey Online Conferences

Lee Abbey still has spaces on its upcoming online retreats! Admission by donation, £30 recommended. <https://leeabbey.org.uk/>

A Special Invitation for Anyone Working with Children & Youth

The Diocese Mission and Ministry team is running an online Advent Retreat on 28 November from 09.30 to 12.30. It will include reflections and preparation for the Advent Season, and some long-overdue spiritual nourishment for all of you working tirelessly with children & young people in these challenging times. Contact Helen.williams@anglican.org to register or find out more.

In memory

We keep in our prayers John Noble.

For prayer

In a season of waiting we pray for those who watch and wait for news of loved ones.

The Beacon

The new issue of the Beacon is out now. A fantastic bumper issue for all ages. Enjoy and share.

Readings

| | This week | Next week |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Readings for this Sunday: | | |
| First Reading | Isaiah 64.1-9 | Isaiah 40.1-11 |
| Psalm | 80.1-7, 16-18 | 85.1-2, 8-13 |
| Second Reading | 1 Corinthians 1.3-9 | 2 Peter 3.8-15a |
| Gospel | Mark 13:24-37 | Mark 1:1-8 |

| Readings for the week ahead: | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Mon | 30 th | Matt 8:5-11 |
| Tue | 1 st | Luke 10:21-24 |
| Wed | 2 nd | Matt 15.29-37 |
| Thurs | 3 rd | Matt 7.21, 24-27 |
| Fri | 4 th | Matt 9.27-31 |
| Sat | 5 th | Matt 9.35-10.1, 10.6-8 |

They can also be viewed/downloaded from <https://bible.oremus.org/>

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Tel: 01803 814178 E: office@beaconparishes.co.uk W: www.missioncommunity.org.uk

Facebook pages: www.facebook.com/StAndrewsIpplepen/

www.facebook.com/denburyworship www.facebook.com/Broad20/

Today's service on line:

10am Informal Morning Prayer via 'Zoom' for the first Sunday of Advent. If you wish to join in please email Rachel Belringer rachelbelringer@gmail.com Please go to the 'Zoom' website <https://us02web.zoom.us/> and select 'Join a meeting'. Then enter the Meeting ID and Passcode provided by Rachel.

11am coffee and catch up via 'Zoom'. If you wish to join in please email Rachel Belringer.

Next Sunday we gather again.

6th December - 2nd Sunday of Advent Mark Ch1 v1-8

9.30am Holy Communion - Denbury

11am Patronal Communion - Ipplepen

Church buildings remain open for individual prayer and reflection.

We provide a space to come and **simply be** when you need to.

9.00am to 5.00pm Daily - Ipplepen

9.00am to 4.00pm Sundays & Wednesdays - Broadhempston

10.00am to 5.00pm Daily - Denbury

The Church of St John the Baptist in Woodland will be closed.

Morning Prayer via Zoom during November continues this week

Morning Prayer will be said at 9am Monday – Thursday during this second Lockdown via Zoom.

If you wish to join in please email Andrew at rev.andrewdown@gmail.com

The Peace of Wild Things

By Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron
feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Public worship resumes

The Government has announced churches will be able to hold public worship services once the current lockdown ends on 2 December. The news has been welcomed by the Church of England.

Sermon from the Diocese

Advent Sunday sermon features our Mission Enabler, the Reverend James Grier, preaching on the theme of waiting. To view go to: <https://vimeo.com/483066129>



Reflection by Rev'd Tony Meek

First Sunday of Advent
Mark 13.24-37
Sunday 29th November 2020

In the early 1960s I worked at a bank in Oxford Street. Walking past most mornings was a very solemn individual with a large placard. It declared that the end of the world would come on a specific date later in the year. When the expected last day passed, he simply changed the date on his placard. He had to do that many times during the five years I was there. That solemn eccentric with his placard drifted out of the graffiti of my mind as I looked at today's gospel from Mark 13. That sounds like a prediction of the end of the world. We have to look carefully at the words of Jesus as reported by Mark if we are not to miss the full message.

The early church thought rather like the man in Oxford Street.. As they compiled the sayings of Jesus, they sometimes saw what he had told them in that light. Some two thousand years later, the Holy Spirit can lead us to a deeper understanding of his words. The previous verses of that chapter are an accurate prediction of the Roman overthrow of Jerusalem. That is a piece of apocalyptic writing in a time honoured Jewish tradition. By the time Mark wrote it down, it had indeed happened.

The Advent message is to do with events in history, not just some vague concept of 'eternity'. We must understand Advent on at least three levels: we remember through these weeks the progression of thought and prophecy and history which lead up to the Nativity in Bethlehem; we look forward in a general way to the end of the world, to a day of universal judgement for which we must be prepared; but most of all, we must understand Advent as affecting our own lives today. We must understand the signs in every generation, including ours, that the kingdom of God is at hand and that Christ is present in critical situations.

There are signs all around us that things are not right in the world, compounded heavily now of course by the dreadful coronavirus pandemic and the threat of international terrorism. Some are seeing something apocalyptic in the present economic situation, although those of us who have worked in banking or finance over many years tend to take a more sanguine view of the cyclical nature of such things. But we seem so reluctant to recognise the signs.

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."

How would a first century Palestinian have interpreted our far more complex sightings across the solar system?

The signs are all around us. I am not thinking of the world ending next Thursday week. I am thinking about God's world, given into our care, crumbling into decay. I am thinking about God's children, our brothers and sisters, suffering and starving and dying as we do nothing, or think in our complacency that we are doing enough. I am thinking of the irreparable damage being done daily to our planet by our industrial processes and by our greed.

If we say and do nothing about all of that, as a Church we are no more than a whited sepulchre. As a Christian Community we are asleep. We can become concerned more with the preservation of our cosy club than with any spiritual movement or growth. If we can learn to love Jesus as he loves us, we cannot remain asleep. If we really love Jesus, we will wake up to other people's needs and to God's demands. The coming of Christ sets us free from human oppression. The coming of Christ sets us free from the guilt and mistakes of the past. The coming of Christ sets us free from the blindness and apathy of the present. The coming of Christ sets us free from ourselves.

Sleepers. Awake! The challenge of each new Advent is to consider what we, as individuals and as a worshipping community, are going to do about all of that.

Sleepers Awake

Cantata No. 140

JS Bach

Renato Bellucci

Change the sound

VIDEO 1