

Notices:

Service of Light 6pm 13th December St Andrew's Ipplepen Near the shortest day of the year we come together to celebrate light in all its forms – a short service of music, readings and reflection.

Look out for the lovely things in our villages that our being re imagined and planned in COVID safe ways – Christmas lights, Advent Windows, Carol Singing...

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

South West Community Chaplaincy for ex prisoners - could you help? [SWCC help people make a fresh start after prison](https://www.southwestcc.org.uk/making-new-start-possible), visiting prisoners pre and post-release, mentoring, discipling, and signposting valuable services like church communities. Could you join them in prayer, giving, and volunteering? <https://www.southwestcc.org.uk/making-new-start-possible>

In memory We keep in our prayers John Noble and David Broughton

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.

Sermon from the Diocese for the Second Sunday of Advent from Canon Cate Edmonds, the Canon Steward of Exeter Cathedral. <https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>

Readings

	This week	Next week
Readings for this Sunday:		
First Reading	Isaiah 40.1-11	Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11
Psalm	85.1-2, 8-13	126
Second Reading	2 Peter 3.8-15a	1 Thessalonians 5.16-24
Gospel	Mark 1:1-8	John 1:6-8, 19-28

Readings for the week ahead:	Mon 7 th	Luke 5:17-26
	Tue 8 th	Matt 18:12-14
	Wed 9 th	Matt 11.28–end
	Thurs 10 th	Matt 11.11-15
	Fri 11 th	Matt 11.16–19
	Sat 12 th	Matt 17.10–13

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

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Beacon Parishes Mission Community of Ipplepen with Torbryan,
Denbury, Broadhempston and Woodland

Weekly Notices

Sunday 6th December 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

Public Worship Resumes Today

Today's Sunday Services

9.30am	Holy Communion	- St Mary's, Denbury
11am	Patronal Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Next Sunday 13th December

9.30am	Holy Communion	-St John the Baptist, Woodland
	Celtic Morning Prayer	-St Mary's, Denbury
11am	Holy Communion	-St Peter and St Paul's, Broadhempston
	Celtic Morning Prayer	-St Andrew's, Ipplepen
6pm	Service of Light	-St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Morning Prayer 9am Monday to Thursday each week

Monday	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
Tuesday	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesday	- St Peter and St Paul's, Broadhempston
Thursday	- St Mary's, Denbury

Mid-Week Communion Services

Tuesday 10am	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday 10am	- St Mary's, Denbury

Other Services this week

Mon 7 th 10.30am	Burial of Ashes of David Broughton	- St Mary's, Denbury
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Christmas Services in the Beacon Parishes:

Sunday 13th December

6pm	Service of Light	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
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19th – 24th December

9am - 4pm daily	The Wonder of Christmas Display	- St Peter and St Paul's, Broadhempston
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Sunday 20th December

5pm	Christmas readings, poems and music	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
6.30pm	Zoom Carol Service	- Joint with Ipplepen Methodist Church (details to follow)

Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve

3.30pm – 6.30pm	Journey to the Crib Christmas Trail	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
4pm	Crib Service	- St Peter and St Paul's, Broadhempston
11pm	Midnight Mass	- St Mary's, Denbury
11pm	Midnight Mass	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Friday 25th December - Christmas Day

9.30am	Holy Communion	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
10am	Family Christmas Service	- St Mary's, Denbury
11am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Sunday 27th December

9.30am	Celtic Morning Prayer	- St Mary's, Denbury
11am	Holy Communion	- St Peter and St Paul's, Broadhempston
11am	Morning Worship	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen



Reflection by Rev'd Anne Burden

Second Sunday of Advent
Mark 1.1-8
Sunday 6th December 2020

When I was thinking about what to write in this reflection, I realised that I was facing a moral dilemma or perhaps more accurately a theological and spiritual dilemma. "When should I put up the Christmas Tree?". Normally I'm very clear that Advent is Advent and Christmas is Christmas.

When I was a child there were never any carols in Church during Advent. The Christmas Tree appeared - miraculously, I thought - on Christmas Eve, and the Carol Service was on the Sunday after Christmas Day. We were taught that the birth of Christ was so important that it needed preparing for, and short-cutting Advent through to Christmas spoilt it all. Nobody objected - it was all fine.

Then over the years the world changed. The Church has become more aware of its responsibility to share the Christian message with those outside the regular congregation, particularly children and families who can't be expected to wait to celebrate Christmas until the schools are back in January... and why should they? Telling the Christmas story is hugely important. Some have never heard it before and any way of sharing the wonder of Jesus entering our hearts and lives, here and now, today, must be good. Perhaps one reason why Christmas has moved earlier over the years, and Advent has squeezed back.

What about this year, in this strange time of Covid when so many people are really struggling and hardship, loneliness and a sense of despair are everywhere?

Christmas seems even more important to people now they have less freedom to choose how to spend it and the signs of Christmas, I'm thinking particularly of lights and decorations, have been appearing even earlier. In Ipplpen, some have decorated their houses and gardens for the Lantern Festival, brilliantly re-purposed to be Covid safe. It was a wonderful occasion, appreciated by so many but it's more than this. Christmas lights are all around us and I think it is because many people are thinking "the world is dark and dismal and dangerous and it needs some light and hope and love" and they're right - I'm sure you agree.

But just think - isn't this the message of Advent? Light coming into the darkness - and eventually overcoming it. Can you hear God saying "That's why I came as Jesus all those years ago - and that's why I still come today if you ask me." Perhaps his message today would add on another few words:- "I'll bring light into the darkness of the world - but I need you to help me".

Our task for Advent is to bring God's light into our community, our families, our world, in all the ways we have discovered during this difficult year and more so. Keep up the greetings, the phone calls, the generosity, the acts of kindness and realise that this is doing God's work and let's prepare our hearts and minds and souls for this. We're lucky that there is so much to help us.

Andrew and Caren have gathered together some resources for Advent - just look at the notice sheet. Others have done the same, and the Diocese, the Cathedral, the Church of England. There's music, readings, reflections, creative projects - so explore what suits you, what feeds you, what will show you the light of Christ to share with others. Don't feel left out if you're not an 'On-line Person'. There's the radio and TV, books, music .. Someone suggested reading the Gospel of Luke - the 24 chapters make it just the right length for Advent!

So put up your Christmas Tree whenever you decide - and see it as a sign of light and hope to your neighbours and as your inspiration to find other ways of being light in the world. You're not short-cutting Advent by celebrating Christmas early - unless you let yourself. Hold on to whatever time you can find for yourself to watch, wait, pray and learn new ways of being light to the world so that you, with God, can be bringers of light and hope and love.

