



**Points of Prayer:** As we prepare to welcome people into our churches and go out into the community during this season may these events bring a sense of joy and God's love.

**In Memory:** Kathleen Woodier, Marie Pook, Margaret 'Jean' Harvey, John Ducker, Diana Hunt, Steven Lloyd, Beryl Humphrey, Michael Retter, Bill Staff, Grace Domoney and Margaret Wakeham.

**Denbury's Carol Service on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December will now start at 6pm** instead of 4pm due to the Football World Cup Final.

**Denbury Advent Window Displays:** A new Denbury Advent Window display will appear every day in Advent, and each will remain on display up to and including the Christmas period. For the list of addresses, please see the notice boards or the website: [www.missioncommunity.org.uk](http://www.missioncommunity.org.uk)

**The Denbury Christmas choir** will meet in the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Denbury, for choir practice this Monday at 7.30pm. There is another rehearsal for the Denbury Christmas choir on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 10am-12noon.

**Compline:** During Advent we gather for Compline on Tuesday evenings at St Andrew's Ipplepen at 7pm This year's dates are 29th November, 6th December and 13th December.

### Dates Ahead for your Diary – Christmas Events and Services

Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 9.30am	Denbury Primary School Carol Concert (KS2)	Denbury
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 6pm	Carol Service with Primary School Performing	Broadhempston
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 6pm	Church Choir Carol Singing at 'Brambledown'	Denbury
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 6pm	Carols on The Village Green	Denbury
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 6pm	Carol Service	Denbury
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 6pm	Carol Service	Ipplepen
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 4pm	Community Nativity	Broadhempston
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec at 7pm	Carols Around the Village Tree	Ipplepen
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec at 6pm	Carol Service	Woodland
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec at 7pm	Carols in The Square with Totnes Band	Broadhempston
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 4pm	Crib Service	Denbury
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 4pm	Crib Service (Churches Together at Ipplepen Methodist Church)	Ipplepen
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 9pm	Christmas Eve Communion	Denbury
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec at 11pm	Christmas Eve Communion	Ipplepen

Readings	This week	Next week
<b>Readings for this Sunday:</b>		
1st Reading	Isaiah 35:1-10	Isaiah 7:10-16
	Psalms 146:4-10	80:1-8, 18-20
2nd Reading	James 5:7-10	Romans 1:1-7
Gospel	Matthew 11:2-11	Matthew 1:18-End

### Readings for the week ahead:

Mon	12 <sup>th</sup>	Matt 21:23-27	Thurs	15 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 7:24-30
Tue	13 <sup>th</sup>	Matt 21:28-32	Fri	16 <sup>th</sup>	John 5:33-36
Wed	14 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 7:18b-23	Sat	17 <sup>th</sup>	Matt 1:1-17

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

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Facebook pages: [www.facebook.com/StAndrewsIpplepen/](http://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsIpplepen/)  
[www.facebook.com/denburyworship](http://www.facebook.com/denburyworship) [www.facebook.com/Broad20/](http://www.facebook.com/Broad20/)

### Today - Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Christingle with Communion	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
11.00 am	Christingle Service	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

### Morning Prayer

This week morning prayer will be said at the following times:

Tuesday	9.15 am	- St Andrew's Ipplepen
Wednesday	9.15 am	- Online Via Zoom (for the zoom password email <a href="mailto:rev.andrewdown@gmail.com">rev.andrewdown@gmail.com</a> )
Thursday	9.15 am	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Friday	9.15 am	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston (A time of silent prayer and meditation)

### Reflection

All our churches are open for private prayer and reflection throughout the week from approximately 9am to 5pm each day.

### Mid-Week

Rev'd Andrew Down - Day off on Mondays.

A new Denbury Advent Window display will appear every day in Advent and will remain until Christmas.

Monday	3pm-5pm	T-Pot	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
	7.30-8.30pm	Denbury Christmas Choir Practice	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Tuesday	9.30 am	Denbury Primary School Carol Concert (by students from Key Stage 2)	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's Ipplepen
	7pm-7.30pm	Mission Community Compline	- St Andrew's Ipplepen
Wednesday	10.30am	Coffee Mates	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	6.00pm	Carol Service with Broadhempston School Performing	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
	7.00 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	4.30-5.30pm	Sta*x Youth Choir Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
	6.00 pm	Carol Singing by the Church Choir	- 'Brambledown', Denbury
Friday	6.00 pm	Carols on The Village Green	- Denbury

### Next Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
6.00 pm	Carol Service	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
6.00 pm	Carol Service	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury



## Reflection by Rev'd Anne Burden

Third Sunday of Advent  
11<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Advent is an unusual season of the Church's year - partly, I think - because it doesn't have a fixed length. Lent as you know is 40 days long, and the Easter season to Pentecost is 50 days. But the length of Advent depends on which day of the week Christmas Day falls. This means that sometimes Advent seems to disappear in a flash, and this year, it's as long as it can be. This may be why there seems to be more interest in Advent activities this year - not just locally where each of our Mission Community Churches is planning something a bit new and different for Advent - but also in the Church at large.

When most people think about Advent, the words "preparation" and "waiting" quite readily come to mind. We're familiar with the accounts of John the Baptist whose task was to prepare the Jewish people for the coming of the Messiah - Jesus. "Prepare the way of the Lord" - a phrase reflected from the Old Testament in the prophecy of Isaiah to the life of John the Baptist. We talk about preparing for Christmas in our own times - but if we're honest - this usually means rushing for pen and paper and making lists - things to do and buy and prepare. There's nothing wrong with this ..... except that it puts all the emphasis on ourselves ..... what we do, our actions, our accomplishments. and that's not what Advent is about at all. Advent is about what God does for his world and his people - about what God is planning to do in entering human lives, making his home in human hearts - as the baby Jesus, and for ever.

This is why the other familiar word for Advent - "waiting" - is so important. We're waiting for God to act, to show himself. He wants to make his home with his people - but the time and manner of his appearing has nothing to do with us, and everything to do with God. So, what's involved in this waiting - and how do we try to ensure that it leads to a meeting with God - surely the most important thing for a Christian wanting to celebrate the festival of Christmas.

In his latest letter to clergy and church leaders, Bishop Robert uses the image of a kingfisher, drawing on a poem by Ann Lewin. Some of you may have read his letter. I was lucky enough to meet Ann Lewin before I moved to Devon and have one of her books of poetry. So I thought I would quote her poem about the kingfisher before concluding this reflection:-

### Disclosure

Prayer is like watching for the  
Kingfisher. All you can do is  
Be where he is likely to appear, and  
Wait.  
Often nothing much happens;  
There is space, silence and  
Expectancy.  
No visible sign, only the  
Knowledge that he's been there,  
And may come again.  
Seeing or not seeing cease to matter,  
You have been prepared.  
But sometimes when you've almost  
Stopped expecting it,  
A flash of brightness  
Gives encouragement.

Kingfishers are beautiful birds - and very elusive. I've caught a glimpse of one a few times - but never managed a photo. My pictures are always of 'the branch where the kingfisher was a moment ago'. Ann Lewin uses her poem to illustrate the task of seeking God in prayer - and I agree with Bishop Robert that this fits well with how we might think of Advent - waiting for God to show himself. The poem encourages us to "be where he is likely to appear - and wait".

A task for the next couple of weeks as Christmas approaches. Where is God likely to be? Where we saw him last, if we have - in Church - in new or traditional worship - in the company of those who seek - at the food bank - where people are cold and hungry and scared. And then focus on waiting - that alone - however many important and worthy things we have to accomplish. Just wait. And in God's own time he may reveal a glimpse of his beauty and grace and love. That will be your best Christmas present ever!!