



**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.

**Celtic Advent Service on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December in Torbryan.** Please bring torches to this service. Refreshments will be served.

**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.

**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 for your diary

Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm at St. Peter & St Paul's, Broadhempston. 'Broadharmony' Concert.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> December 2pm-4pm at St. Andrew's Church, Ipplepen - Christmas Fair.

Sat 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm at St. Peter & St Paul's, Broadhempston. - 'Broadband' Concert.

**Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen** is on from 1st to 10th December for anyone visiting the church to judge their favourite. Please come and have a look, there will also be a Christmas trail to do on the pathway at the entrance to the church for young and old alike.

**Transforming Plymouth Together has had 750 requests for Winter Warm Packs** to give to people who are struggling to heat their homes this winter. The charity, which is a joint Diocese of Exeter and Church Urban Fund project, decided to create the warm packs for people who would find it difficult to travel to a church or community 'warm space' because of transport or mobility issues or mental health reasons. Each pack costs £25 to put together. The charity is asking individuals and churches to sponsor a pack to help meet the cost. [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/tpt-winter-warm-packs](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/tpt-winter-warm-packs) As we enter winter and the temperature drops we pray for those who are suffering because of the cost of living crisis and the increased cost of heating homes. We give thanks for the agency and volunteers who help to provide warm spaces and hot meals.

| Readings                                     | This week      | Next week       |
|--|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Readings for this Sunday:</b> 1st Reading | Isaiah 11:1-10 | Isaiah 35:1-10  |
| Psalm  | 72:1-7, 18-1   | 146:4-10        |
| 2nd Reading                                  | Romans 15:4-13 | James 5:7-10    |
| Gospel                                       | Matthew 3:1-12 | Matthew 11:2-11 |

### **Readings for the week ahead:**

|                     |                |                       |               |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> | Matt 3:1-12    | Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> | Matt 11:11-15 |
| Tue 6 <sup>th</sup> | Matt 18:12-14  | Fri 9 <sup>th</sup>   | Matt 11:16-19 |
| Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> | Matt 11:28-End | Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>  | Matt 17:10-13 |

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 4<sup>th</sup> December

|          |  |                                 |
|----------|--|---------------------------------|
| 9.30 am  | Holy Communion and<br>Baptism of Samuel Luscombe           | - St John the Baptist, Woodland |
| 9.30 am  | Celtic Morning Prayer                                      | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury   |
| 11.00 am | Patronal Communion with<br>Children's Activities           | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen         |
| 4.30 pm  | Celtic Advent Service ( <b>Please bring your torches</b> ) | - Holy Trinity, Torbryan        |

### 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<br>(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<br>(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. The Christmas Tree Festival will take place in St Andrew's Church Ipplepen, every day until Sat 10<sup>th</sup>.

|           |             |                                    |                                     |
|-----------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Monday    | 3pm-5pm     | T-Pot                              | - Church Cottage, Denbury           |
|           | 2.00 pm     | School Nativity – Key Stage 1      | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston  |
|           | 7.00 pm     | Scout & Brownie Carol Service      | - St Andrew's Ipplepen              |
|           | 7.30 pm     | Bellringing Practice               | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston  |
|           | 7.30-8.30pm | Denbury Christmas Choir Practice   | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury       |
| Tuesday   | 10.15 am    | Holy Communion                     | - St Andrew's Ipplepen              |
|           | 7pm-7.30pm  | Compline                           | - St Andrew's Ipplepen              |
| Wednesday | 12 noon     | Churches Together - Lunch Club     | - St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen |
|           | 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                     | - <b>Church Cottage, Denbury</b>    |
|           | 4.30-5.30pm | Sta*x Youth Choir Practice         | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen             |
|           | 7.30 pm     | 'Broadharmony' Christmas Concert   | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston  |
| Friday    | 2.00 pm     | School Carol Service – Key Stage 2 | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston  |
| Saturday  | 10am-12     | Coffee Morning                     | - The Parish Rooms, Woodland        |
|           | 2pm-4pm     | Christmas Fair                     | - St Andrew's Ipplepen              |
|           | 7.30 pm     | 'Broadband' Christmas Gig          | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston  |

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

|          |                            |                                    |
|----------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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            |



## Reflection by Rev'd Tony Meek

**Second Sunday of Advent  
Advent 2 Year A  
4<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
Matthew 3:1-12**

### **John The Baptist**

Perhaps I am timid, but John's preaching would have frightened me out of my wits. It sounds like blood and thunder, similar to the hellfire type of sermon one associates with those ultra-evangelical preachers of the nineteenth century.

The contrast between Jesus and John, both in preaching and lifestyle, seems immense. John lived rough, a definite ascetic. When Jesus spoke of John at the time of John's arrest, St Matthew reports him as saying "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'" (Matt 11.18-19)

John warned people to flee from the wrath to come; it sounds like a message of fear. Jesus appealed to people to enter into life; his was a gospel of love. Even the preaching of John about the coming of Jesus sounds like a warning. "His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire." (Matt 3.12)

It is only too easy to contrast the severity of all this with the gentleness of Jesus, and the homeliness of his parables. We have to admire the courage of John the Baptist and we know that he met his end in prison because he had openly rebuked Herod on account of his matrimonial affairs.

Jesus did start his teaching from where John had to leave off. He acknowledged openly that John had been his forerunner, preparing the way for him. He took up the theme of judgement, and the need for a revolution in morality. What John could not have foreseen was that Jesus would be initiating a new order and not just bringing an old order to an end.

As John was preparing for the coming of Jesus, so we must prepare throughout Advent for two events. Most immediately, we must make a straight path in our lives so that we may properly celebrate the feast of the nativity. We must ensure that we are ready to remember how God became man in a stable in Bethlehem. He had to be born among us so that He could die for us.

And we prepare not just by addressing our cards, buying our presents and putting up our decorations; although, if any of those things make us think, however imperfectly, of Christmas, I would never belittle them. We need to be planning our Christmas worship, our reunions, our hospitality, our generosity. We need to think about those aspects of our celebration of Christmas which make it different from those who are not celebrating the birth of their Saviour.

John the Baptist was indeed preparing the way for Jesus. His message of repentance remains essential as a preparation for the coming of Christ into our hearts. It remains essential as we prepare once more to celebrate the coming of the Son of God as a tiny baby in a manger in Bethlehem.

Prepare a path for Jesus to enter your home this Christmas time and a path for him to enter and remain at the centre of your life for all time.

