

Advent Sunday

Sunday December 3rd 2023

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, thou rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.**

**O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.**

**O come, thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.**

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
in ancient times did'st give the Law,
in cloud, and majesty and awe.**

Prayer for the Day

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

First Reading Isaiah 64.1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1.3-9

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians

My brothers and sisters:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

**As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.**

***You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.***

**I want you more than gold or silver,
only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye.**

**You're my friend and you are my brother,
even though you are a king.
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything.**

Gospel Reading: Mark 13.24-37

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you, O Lord

The Coming of the Son of Man

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.
Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.***

***Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church
gathered today.***

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.**

**Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.**

**Longing for shelter people are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.**

**Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.**

Post-Communion Prayer

**O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

**Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
once for mortal sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending,
swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ appears on earth to reign.**

**Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty;
we who set at naught and sold him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.**

**Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers;
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!**

**Yea, amen! Let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.**

For our prayers

Prayers for the Parish:

Lower East Court; South Meadow; School Lane; Giles Farm;
Gilbert Scott Road; Gilbert Scott House; Boyd House;
Hippisley House; Nettlecombe House; Moffatt Drive,
Torrwood Nursing Home (South Horrington)

Prayers for our link churches in Zambia

Please pray for St Augustine's Church & St Monica's Church,
Livingstone East and their priest Rev Ackson Kampala

Prayers for those who are ill:

David and Audrey Parkes; Jean; Robert: Helen; Eva & family;
Jenny & Geoff; Julie & Ivor Parry; Alethea; Jenny Boocock; Isaac;
Douglas Duncan; Molly Marshall; Sheila Stocker

R.I.P. Pamela Pye; Michael Taylor; Gilbert; Rosemary Baker;
Jennifer Mitchell

Those whose year's mind occurs at this time:

Freda Baron (07-12-2013) Benjamin Howarth (08-12-1995)
Doris Taylor (07-12-2013) Peter Feltham (08-12-2010)

**Thursdays at 11am - Pause to Pray for our legacy and for the
redevelopment project**

This week:

4 th Mon	11am	Trio Paradis Concert (<i>refreshments from 10.30am</i>)
	8.00pm	Cantabile Christmas Carol Concert
5 th Tues	10am-12	Coffee Stop
	2 – 4pm	<i>Choir rehearsals</i>
6 th Wed	9.30-11am	ABC2 parents/carers & tots in the church hall
	11am	Eucharist – a quiet said communion service
7 th Thurs	10-11am	Keep Fit in the church hall
	1.30pm	Memorial Service for Rosemary Baker
8 th Fri	7.30pm	Chorus of Disapproval Christmas Concert
10 th Sun	10am	Parish Eucharist
	3.30-5pm	Crafty Christingle
	5pm	Christingle Service

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**Christingle Making** - we'll be making Christingles in church on Saturday 9th December at 10.30am, for the next day's service (for those who just come to the service and not Crafty Christingle beforehand). We need a team of 5-6 people to help with this so if you can spare an hour that morning, please see Claire or Judy.

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Crafty Christingle - help needed for the activities from 3.30-5pm on Sunday December 10th. The craft activities include: Snowman paper bag puppets; Star fridge magnets; Angels; Picture Calendars; Angel biscuits; Nativity scenes (with stickers). Please see Judy and/or sign up at the back of church.

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**Trio Paradis Café Concert** (*café is open 10.30am*)

**Sleigh Ride** Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Dec at 11am in St Thomas church

*December's music is inspired by ice, snow and the Advent/Christmas season, with several sleigh rides and festive numbers ...along with a few quieter, more reflective pieces.*

**Carols with Cantabile – Christmas Concert in St Thomas church  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 8pm Tickets £10 on the door**

**Chorus of Disapproval Christmas Concert in St Thomas church  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm Tickets £4 on the door**

**Celebrate Christmas with**

**Wells Good Afternoon Choir and special guests children from  
St Cuthbert's primary school**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 1pm - 4pm in church**

***Free Admission with a retiring collection for POPYRUS***

**Healing Group Speaker**

**Wednesday 13th December in the community Room at  
2.30pm. Gill Sakakini a pioneer minister from St. Peters  
Shepton Mallet is coming to speak on 'Healing Through Art'  
This is an invitation to anyone interested in this subject.**

**Wednesday 13th December between 11am-12.30/1 pm.  
The Christian Aid Carol Singing will take place in the  
Market Square. Everyone welcome to join in the singing.**

**Carols at Heads Up, Upper Breach, South Horrington Village  
Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 12noon – 2pm  
It would be lovely if you can join the small group from  
St Thomas's to boost the singing!**

**St Thomas's Candlelit Carol Service  
6.30pm Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

**Carols in South Horrington Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm  
On the area by the caretaker's hut, to the front/side of Gilbert Scott House**

## **Christmas Flowers – Saturday 23 December**

The flower arrangers will be in church from **10.00am** to decorate for Christmas. If you would like to join the team, don't worry if you haven't been before, you will be most welcome! Refreshments will be provided. Or perhaps you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the flowers. For further information, please contact either Sally Ball (595748) or Caroline in the Parish Office.

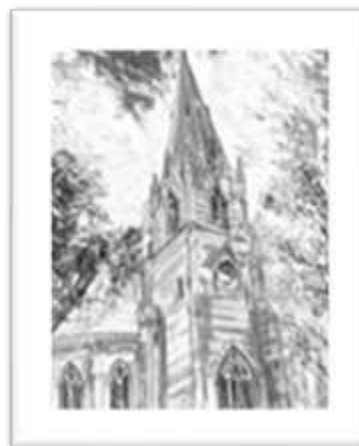
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ST THOMAS'S CARDS - available from the Parish Office.

Blank inside.

Ideal to use to write a note to family & friends at Christmas.

4 for £5 or £1.50 each



Wells Vineyard Church Foodbank

Please leave donations of food in the box by the door.

To make a financial donation, the details are:

Wells Vineyard Christian Fellowship

HSBC Sortcode: 40-46-06

Account Number: 31387170

Please mark the donation 'Foodbank'.

Sunday December 10th

3.30-5pm

Crafty Christingle



Make your own Christingle & other
Christmas crafts

5pm Christingle service

Sunday December 17th

@ 6.30pm

Candlelit Carol Service



Wednesday 20th December

@ 6pm

Carols in South Horrington



*In partnership with the Leaseholders' Association
on the area by the caretaker's hut, to the
front/side of Gilbert Scott House*

Christmas Eve @ 6.30pm

Scratch Nativity



Come dressed as any character from
the Nativity story! Costumes also
available at the service.

Christmas Eve @ 11.30pm

Midnight Mass



Christmas Day @ 10am

**All-ages together Family
Service**



Christmas attire welcome!

We'd love to welcome you to any of these
services and events. To find out more
please contact Claire, the Vicar on 939467
or vicar@stthomaswells.co.uk