

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday December 10th 2023

Hymn

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new,
bear his people's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Ring bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes,
who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
He will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human. *Ring bells....*

Mary, hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid
til' the time expected,
nurtured and protected. *Ring bells....*

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethlem shines, like a star,
Stable door stands ajar.
Unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!

***Ring bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes, Jesus comes,
We will make him welcome!***

Prayer for the Day

Wild God of the wastes,
whose gospel begins with a cry and a summons:
take us to a pathless place where we can start again
to taste creation's gifts anew and await the Spirit's touch;
through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.

Amen.

First Reading Isaiah 40.1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Second Reading 2 Peter 3.8-15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art:
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Gospel Reading: Mark 1.1-8

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

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight” ’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a
baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from
the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were

going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

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

Hymn

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.**

**Then cleansed be every breast from sin,
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest my come.**

**For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.**

**Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore,
and make us rise, to fall no more;
once more upon thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free;
whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Spirit blest, for evermore.**

Post-Communion Prayer

**Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Hymn

**Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
sing and praise your God and mine!
Great the Lord in love and wisdom,
might and majesty divine!
He who framed the starry heavens
knows and names them as they shine!
Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
sing and praise your God and mine!**

**Praise the Lord, his people, praise him!
Wounded souls his comfort know;
those who fear him find his mercies,
peace for pain and joy for woe;
humble hearts are high exalted,
human pride and power laid low.
Praise the Lord, his people, praise him!
Wounded souls his comfort know.**

**Praise the Lord for times and seasons,
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;
spring to melt the snows of winter
till the waters flow again;
grass upon the mountain pastures,
golden valleys thick with grain.
Praise the Lord for times and seasons,
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain.**

**Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
peace and plenty crown your days;
love his laws, declare his judgments,
walk in all his words and ways;
he the Lord and we his children,
praise the Lord, all people, praise!
Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
peace and plenty crown your days.**

***The Parish Giving Scheme leaflets are now available
at the back of church.***

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; Jennifer Mitchell

Those whose year's mind occurs at this time:

William Maycock	(10-12-2007)	Irene Howarth	(10-12-2016)
Derek Coombs	(12-12-1997)	Frederick Gibbons	(12-12-2000)
Nancy Garton	(14-12-1993)	Sheila Blocksidge	(14-12-2006)
Paul Taylor	(15-12-2019)	Polly Worth	(16-12-1997)

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

Claire says thank you for all your messages of support

Tuesday 19 December at 7pm in St Thomas Church

The Orthodox Ukrainian St Nicholas Day Vespers (led by Fr Richard and Mother Sarah of Bath Orthodox Church). Members of St Thomas congregation are warmly invited to join us.

They would like a small group of helpers to serve coffee/tea at the back of the church immediately after the service. If you are able to help please speak to a churchwarden or Caroline in the office.

This week:

- 12th Tues 10am-12 **Coffee Stop** (*with Carol Singers 10-10.15am*)
1.30pm – 2.45pm Good Afternoon choir Christmas Concert
- 13th Wed 9.30-11am **ABC2** parents/carers & tots in the church hall
11am **Eucharist** – a quiet said communion service
2.30pm **Healing Group with Speaker** in community room
- 14th Thurs 9.30am **A Time to Meditate** in the church
11am-12 *Stoberry School service rehearsal in church*
12noon – 2pm *Carols at Heads Up, South Horrington*
- 15th Fri 9.45am **Stoberry School Carol Service**
- 17th Sun **10am Parish Eucharist**
4.30pm *Choir Rehearsal*
6.30pm **Candlelit Carol Service**

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**Celebrate Christmas with**

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

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm - 2.45pm 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 a 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**

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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.**

**There is an electrically operated reclining chair available for free.  
See Chris Jenkins.**

### **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'.**

**GOOD NEWS - St Thomas church has been awarded a  
Bronze Eco-Church Award.**

**We are now working towards gaining the Silver!**

The Christmas collections are going to:  
Christian Aid, Salvation Army and the Wells Foodbank.

**Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>**

**3.30-5pm**

**Crafty Christingle**



Make your own Christingle & other  
Christmas crafts

**5pm Christingle service**

**Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>**

**@ 6.30pm**

**Candlelit Carol Service**



**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:vicar@stthomaswells.co.uk)