



Week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
Advent Sunday

St John the Baptist Church is an inclusive church.



**A Reflection for Advent Sunday from Jackie**



Yes, today is Advent Sunday, the beginning of a new liturgical year. What an up and down year last year was. It started off full of promise with Rachel settling into her ministry at St. Johns only for it to be disrupted by something called Covid just 4 months later. Services resumed in July, but not in the old way, and stopped again in November. We should be able to resume again on 6 December.

Advent seems to me to be an appropriate point to resume our face to face worship. Zoom meetings do have their place and I'm sure that we've all got used to doing things differently. However, if you're like me nothing can adequately match that time in church when we all share in an act of worship. Face masks are a bit of a pain but 'mask to mask' shared worship has become the 'new normal'.

Advent is the season of preparation for the birth of Jesus. It's a time to watch, to wait and to be still and pray, not always easy as there is so much going on, sometimes from as early as September. This year seems to be no exception with many people putting trees up and light displays as early as they thought they could get away with, to banish Covid woes. I think I have to ask, "Do these people know the real reason for the season?"

Advent traditionally comprises of the 4 Sundays leading up to Christmas Day each celebrating different people – Today it's the Patriarchs, followed by the Prophets, John the Baptist and Mary. There will be an Advent Crown in church and a candle will be lit each day, today the Candle of Hope then candles of



peace, joy and love. The third Sunday is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means rejoice.



Advent at St. Johns has, in the past been symbolised by the priest and church being in purple, but this year we are going to be in blue. Why Blue? Well, it's the colour used by royalty to welcome the coming of a king. It represents the colour of the sky in which the star appeared over the place where Jesus lay and where angels appeared to announce his birth. It also symbolises Mary, mother of our incarnate Lord, the ultimate gift of love. Blue vestments were used in the Sarum Rite in England from Medieval times until the English Reformation. Sarum referring to Salisbury. During the 19th century, certain Church of England churches began adopting Sarum liturgical colours as an attempt to produce something that was an English expression of faith, Sarum Blue being one of them. I'm glad about this as it means I will match the colours in church for a little longer this year!

Now the serious bit. Today's Gospel reading advises us amongst other things to watch, be vigilant and be prepared so we don't become weighed down with all the problems that life can throw at us. It's an invitation not to lose the focus of our faith, but to be fully attentive so that we don't miss any opportunity to participate in God's ongoing transforming work - the work to which Advent and the new church year calls us. Our Christmas preparations shouldn't divert our attention from what's really important - even more important this year as we wait not only for Jesus' birth but for an end to the Covid Pandemic.

So this year as you prepare to celebrate and enjoy what Christmas has to offer with family and friends, keep vigilant and make Advent work for you and REMEMBER THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.

#### Collect

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty  
to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

#### Post Communion

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.

<b>Readings for this Sunday</b> Isaiah 64: 1 – 9 Psalm 80: 1 – 8 1 Corinthians 1: 3 – 9 Mark 13: 24 – end	<b>Readings for 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Isaiah 40: 1 – 11 Psalm 85: 1 – 2, 8 – 13 [or 85: 8 – end] 2 Peter 3: 8 – 15a Mark 1: 1 – 8
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### Coming up this week:

Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> November Advent Sunday	10.30 am	Revd Rachel will celebrate a Eucharist for the Parish from the vicarage with her family  Topic: Sunday Worship Time: Nov 29, 2020 10:30 AM London  Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79406964769?pwd=V0JmUDFJeFY2RnR2NlVkeGlacHhVdz09">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79406964769?pwd=V0JmUDFJeFY2RnR2NlVkeGlacHhVdz09</a>  Meeting ID: 794 0696 4769 Passcode: 9Vpeks
Monday to Saturday	9.00 am 5.00 pm	Morning and Evening Prayer will be said in the vicarage
Tuesday	10.30 am	Zoom Coffee Morning (see below for details)
Wednesday	10.00 am – 2.00pm	Church open for personal prayer
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Parish Eucharist IN CHURCH

### Coming Soon:

Make your own cuppa, grab a biscuit or a cake (is it too early for a mince pie?) and have a catch up with all the friends we can't meet in church at the moment.

Topic: *St John's Coffee Morning at Home* Zoom Meeting

**Topic: St John's Coffee Morning**

**Time: Dec 1, 2020 10:30 AM London**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79491111202?pwd=b01PQlpZUUt4eTJyQk5Ma3F6enQ5dz09>

**Meeting ID: 794 9111 1202**

**Passcode: 2NgLqc**

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**8<sup>th</sup> December 8 pm Cosy Compline at Home – details to follow**

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## *Christmas Fair*

Due to the current uncertainty surrounding COVID-19 and the evolving situation, the PCC have decided that there will be no Christmas Fair this year. **DON'T PANIC!** You will still be able to buy a selection of Jackie's handknitted knickknacks and Revd Rachel's Choir Robe tote bags will be going for a song (see what I did there?) along with scented candles and other stocking fillers. We will be holding the annual colouring competition with Ermine Primary Academy and there might even be a cake stall one Sunday. Email: [admin@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk) to place an order.

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## Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December – **The Third Sunday of Advent**

Christmas celebrations are going to be a bit weird and low key this year because of COVID-19. But, if you're looking for a little bit of festive cheer and music to get you into the spirit of things, help is on its way. **The Quartet** will be playing beautiful Advent and Christmas music for our worship on 13<sup>th</sup> December.

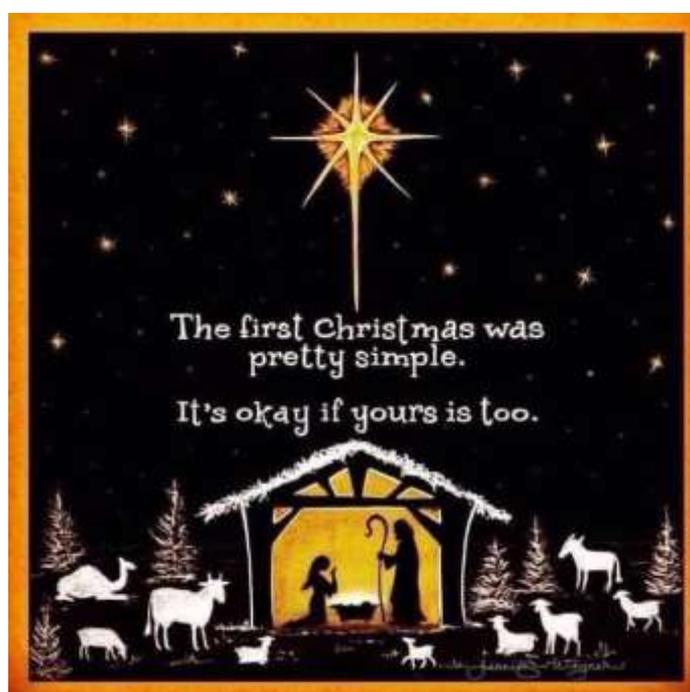
There will be a retiring collection in aid of The Children's Society.

**PRAYER THIS WEEK**

Saint's Day	Prayer in the parish	Prayer in the diocese
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Our Lady of Lincoln church and school</b> The clergy and people; the staff, governors and pupils of Our Lady Primary School Residents of: Barkston Gardens, Bassingham Crescent, Bilsby Close, Blankney Crescent	'God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.' 1 Corinthians 1:9  Pray for the Lusitanian Church (Extra-Provincial to the Archbishop of Canterbury) The Rt Revd Jorge Pina Cabral - Bishop of the Lusitanian Church
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>  <b>Andrew the Apostle</b>	<b>Ermine House</b> Residents of: Brattleby Crescent, Broxholme Gardens, Buchanan Street, Burnside Close	<b>The Trentcliffe Group - Blyborough, Blyton, East Stockwith, Glentworth, Harpswell, Hemswell, Loughton w Wildsworth, Willoughton: Revd Mark Briscoe</b>  Pray for the PCC and all Church officers as they work to keep the Churches open for services  Sekondi (West Africa) The Rt Revd Alexander Asmah  Eastern Michigan (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Todd Ousley
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December  <b>Charles de Foucauld, hermit, 1916</b>	<b>Our parish visitors</b> Residents of: Burwell Close, Cabourne Avenue, Carlton Grove, Carlton Walk	<b>The Deanery of Christianity – Rural Dean: Revd Dr Hugh Jones, Lay Chair: Mr Neil Denny</b>  Pray for the discussions across the Deanery arising out of Resourcing Sustainable Church  Seoul (Korea) The Rt Revd Peter Lee  Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador (Canada) The Rt Revd Geoffrey Peddle
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Flower arrangers, Community Larder</b> Residents of: Chatterton Avenue, Clarendon Gardens, Clarendon View, David Avenue	<b>Church Schools in the Deanery of Christianity -</b> Lincoln Bishop King, Lincoln St Faith & St Martin, Lincoln St Faith's, Lincoln St Peter at Gowts, Lincoln St Peter-in-Eastgate.  Bishop's Council of Diocesan Trustees  Seychelles (Indian Ocean) The Most Revd James Richard Wong Yin Song (Primate)  Eastern Oregon (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Patrick Bell
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>  <b>Francis Xavier, missionary, 1552</b>	<b>Staff and users of the church hall</b> Paul Musson, Olive Musson, Liz Straw, the hall committee and all hall users Residents of: Dunholme Court, Dunston Close, Edendale Gardens, Edendale View	<b>The Parish of Birchwood – Revd Linda Harris</b>  Pray for connections across the community  Sheffield (England) The Rt Revd Pete Wilcox  Eastern Zambia (Central Africa) The Rt Revd William Mchombo  Easton (The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd Santosh Marray

<p>Friday 4<sup>th</sup></p> <p><b>John of Damascus,</b> monk, teacher of the faith, c. 749</p> <p><b>Nicholas Ferrar,</b> deacon, founder of the Little Gidding Community, 1637</p>	<p><b>The lunch club; Guides and Brownies</b> Sue Fleshbourne and the lunch club team Residents of: Edlington Close, Epworth View, Ermine Close, Escombe View</p>	<p><b>The Parish of Boultham – Revd Canon David Osbourne</b></p> <p>Pray for Care Homes in the area</p> <p>Shinyanga (Tanzania) The Rt Revd Johnson Chinyong'ole Eau Claire (The Episcopal Church) The Revd William Jay Lambert</p>
<p>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup></p>	<p><b>The Children's Society</b> Residents of: Flavian Road, Fiskerton Drive, Garfield Close, Garfield View, Gayton Close</p>	<p><b>The Parish of Bracebridge – Revd Andy Jackson-Parr</b> Pray for young people and teachers in our schools</p> <p>Gasabo (Rwanda) The Most Revd Laurent Mbanda (Primate) Edinburgh (Scotland) The Rt Revd John Armes</p>

<p><b>Give thanks for:</b></p>	<p>The end of the lockdown and a return to worship in church.</p>
<p><b>Special prayers this week for:</b></p>	<p>Businesses, especially in the hospitality sector who will be hit hard by tier 3 restrictions in Lincoln and Greater Lincolnshire</p>
<p><b>People in need:</b></p>	<p>Clive Seabury, Dave Notman, Rosa and Warren (Pat) Shay, Andy, Tracey Walton, Dawn Wise, David Manby.</p>
<p><b>Rest in peace:</b></p>	<p>Adam Banks</p>



Revd. Rachel can be contacted Saturday – Thursday

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Any items for this weekly sheet should be received by Revd. Rachel  
*no later than Wednesday evening.*