



## **The Link**

Sunday, 10th December, 2023  
Second Sunday of Advent

St Mark's 10.30am: Morning Prayer Service  
Holy Trinity 9.15am - All- Age Family Service  
Holy Trinity 10.30am - Holy Communion Service

## **HYMNS (Ancient and Modern):**

**30** Come Thou long expected Jesus

**Screen** - Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness

**45** O Come, o come Emmanuel

**160** Make way, make way

## **COLLECT:**

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **All: Amen.**

## **NEW TESTAMENT READING:**

Today's reading is from **2 Peter**.

### 2 Peter 3:8-15a

But 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.

This is the word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL READING:**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Mark**.

**All: Glory to you, O lord.**

### Mark 1:1-8

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 baptiser 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 baptised 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 baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **PRAYERS:**

We pray for our communities and in particular for all living on: Bridge Croft, Bridge Road, Brookfield Close, Brookfield View and Byron Avenue.

We pray for those who are sick or in need: Rodney, Ollie, Paul, Roz, Peter Hilling and Deborah Severn.

We pray for the family and friends of those who have recently died: Teresa Mason, Byron Mason, Joseph Peel, David Mason, and Katherine Handley.

From our Book of Remembrance, we remember in prayer: Norman Ernest Morris, Ann Davies, Jean Townson, Joseph Robinson, Dorothy Grace Casson, John Morrison Sparks, and Denis Leigh.

### **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. **All: Amen.**

## Notices and Announcements

### Advent 2023 Meditation on Zoom

Join us for a **15 minute meditation each evening at 6.30pm on Zoom**. We will be using the booklet "Revealing Jesus" from Blackburn diocese. Download here: <https://tinyurl.com/Revealingjesus23>



Advent Fair: Thank you to all those who helped, donated and joined in our Advent Fair last weekend. It was a great event.

### † Our Upcoming Advent Services and Events †

**Tuesday, 12th December: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

**Tuesday, 12th December, 7.45pm:** Prayer Meeting, Vicarage Meeting Room

**Wednesday, 13th December, 10am:** Wednesday Communion Service

**Wednesday, 13th December, 1pm:** Wreaths and Flowers Collection

**Wednesday, 13th December, 7.30pm:** Church Christmas Choir Practice

**Friday, 15th December, 9.30am:** Shining Stars, Christchurch URC

**Sunday, 17th December: Third Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday, 17th December, 9am:** Holy Communion Service (Book of Common Prayer), St Mark's.

**Sunday, 17th December, 10.30am:** Morning Praise Service, Holy Trinity and on Zoom.

**Sunday, 17th December, 6.30pm:** Carols by Candlelight, Holy Trinity

**Monday, 18th December:** BLS School Christmas Carol Services

**Tuesday, 19th December, 9.05am:** School Eucharist

**Tuesday, 19th December, 7.45pm:** Prayer Meeting, Vicarage Meeting Room.

**Wednesday, 20th December, 10am:** Wednesday Communion Service

