THE PARISH OF
HOLY TRINITY
BOLTON LE SANDS & ST MARK'S NETHER KELLET

The Link

Sunday, 7th December, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Trinity, 10.30am: Family Communion

PLEASE TAKE THIS HOME WITH YOU OR GIVE IT TO A NEIGHBOUR

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HYMNS ANCIENT & MODERN:
45 - O come, o come, Emmanuel
27 - Colours of Day
712 - Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us
30 - Come thou long expected Jesus

THE 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 **St Paul's letters to the Romans.**

Romans 15:4-13
For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name";
and again he says,
"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; and again,
"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";
and again Isaiah says,
"The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

GOSPEL READING:
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew.**
All: Glory to you, O lord.

Matthew 3:1-12
In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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

PRAYERS:
We pray for our communities and in particular for all who live in Bridge Croft, Bridge Road, Brookfield Close, Brookfield View and Byron Avenue.
We pray for those who are sick or in need: Derek, Julie, Elijah, Avril, Joyce, Peter, Eden, Pat, Peter, and Rod.
We pray for the family and friends of Magdalene Westmoreland and Ian Modley who have recently died.
From our Book of Remembrance, we remember in prayer: Andrew John Perks, Kathleen Isobel Gordon, Annie Rachel Parker, Norman Ernest Morris, Ann Davies, Jean Townson, Joseph Robinson, Dorothy Grace Casson and John Morrison Sparks.

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 the 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 Fair: If you bought raffle tickets at the Advent Fair, please check the list of prize winners on the Noticeboard at the back of church.
A total of almost £2000 was raised on the day, all of which will go towards the work of the Parish. Warm thanks to all who contributed in any way. There is a poster on the Finance noticeboard showing the proceeds from individual stalls and activities. **The Auction closes next Saturday!**

Carol Service at Hyning: Hyning monastery is holding a carol service on Sunday December 14th at 3pm. All are welcome.

✨🎄✝️ Our Advent Services and Events ✝️🎄✨

Tuesday, 9th December, 12pm: A celebration of the life of Magdalene Westmoreland

Tuesday, 9th December, 7.30pm: Lectio Divina @ The Old Boys School

Wednesday, 10th December, 10am: Wednesday Communion Service, Holy Trinity.

Wednesday, 10th December, 12pm: MU Christmas Meal. URC Hall, Bolton le Sands.

Wednesday, 10th December, 7.30pm: Choir Rehearsal

Friday, 12th December, 9.30am: Shining Stars, Christ Church Bolton-le-Sands.

Friday, 12th December, 8pm: Carols at the Blue Anchor

Saturday, 13th December, 9am: Men's Breakfast, Holy Trinity.

Sunday, 14th December, 9.15am: The 9.15 All Age Service, Holy Trinity Church.

Sunday, 14th December, 10.30am: Morning Prayer at St Mark's

Sunday, 14th December, 10.30am: Sunday Communion Service in church and on Zoom, Holy Trinity.

Sunday, 14th December, 6.30pm: Youth Cafe, Slyne-with-Hest. St. Luke's. Church Hall.