

## 9 December 2018 Advent 2

### Prepare the way of the Lord

The Advent readings can often give us a feeling that there is something about the continuity of God which we have been missing. In the Old Testament God has a turbulent and childlike relationship with his people but they seemed mostly to know and understand that He was there for them however much they tried to ignore him and worship golden images. God also sent messages for us – Isaiah, “I knew you before you were born” and “I am going to send a messenger who will prepare the way and Malachi 3 (1-4) “the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter the Temple” 4 The message with which we are most familiar of course is in today’s Gospel, the voice which came to John in the Wilderness “Prepare the Way for the Lord.”

Maybe Advent means more than waiting to celebrate the coming of The Light of the World. Perhaps it is a time to look at what our relationship with God means to us and how we can renew it, allow it to develop in the light of the world around us. Our present world is in turmoil: we are reacting against becoming a global world, forgetting that God created a global world. We can see why the readings in Advent are from Revelations with visions of the new world. Gordon Musell, retired Bishop of Stafford’ tells us “Advent is the time to ask what can we do to develop a vision of that new world.”

“As a doe longs for running streams, so longs my soul for you my God” (Psalm 42.1 )

*Daphne Himmel*

**Growing in Faith,  
Reaching Out  
to All**

**St Mary’s  
Fordingbridge  
SP6 1BB**

**St Mary’s  
Breamore  
SP6 2DF**

**Holy Ascension  
Hyde  
SP6 2QJ**

**St Giles  
Godshill  
SP6 2JJ**

**St Boniface  
Woodgreen  
SP6 2AJ**

**St Mary’s  
Hale  
SP6 2RF**

**Sandleheath  
Uniting Church  
SP6 IPT**

# READINGS - for you to use today and during the week

**9 December 2018**  
**Advent 2**

## **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.

**AMEN.**

## **BENEDICTUS** *(For Morning Prayer)*

1. Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
Who has come to his people and set them free.
2. He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
Born of the house of his servant David.
3. Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
To save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,
4. To show mercy to our ancestors,  
And to remember his holy covenant.
5. This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
To set us free from the hands of our enemies,
6. Free to worship him without fear,  
Holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
7. And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
For you will go before the Lord to pre- pare his way,

8. To give his people knowledge of salvation  
By the forgiveness of all their sins.
9. In the tender compassion of our God  
The dawn from on high shall break upon us,
10. To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
And to guide our feet into the way of peace.

## **A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Baruch**

*Baruch 5:1-9*

*Writing between the end of the Exile and the coming of Christ, Baruch foretells the glory in store for God's people.*

<sup>1</sup> Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. <sup>2</sup> Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; <sup>3</sup> for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. <sup>4</sup> For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory.' <sup>5</sup> Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. <sup>6</sup> For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. <sup>7</sup> For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. <sup>9</sup> For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

*At the end, the Reader says:*

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE GOSPEL READING**

*Please stand and turn to face the Gospel Reader*

*When the Gospel is announced, the Reader says:*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**(Glory be to thee, O Lord.)**

*John the Baptist prepares people for Christ's ministry.*

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

*At the end, the Reader says:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(At the end, the Reader says:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise be to thee, O Christ.)***

*(c) New Revised Standard Version of the Holy Bible.*

## **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.**

**EMERGENCY PRAYER CHAIN** : Please send all requests for prayer to [prayer@avp-benefice.org.uk](mailto:prayer@avp-benefice.org.uk). If you feel able to commit to regular prayer for those on the list and wish to become a prayer partner, please make contact via the above e-mail address.



## **GARY OUT & ABOUT :**

*Monday*, Funeral in the afternoon, followed by Messy Church at Hyde at PCC at Fordingbridge.

*Tuesday*, Breamore School production, Burial of Ashes in the afternoon.

*Wednesday*, Funeral in the morning, Advent lunch at Fordingbridge, Christmas Show at Fordingbridge Nursery, Deanery Meeting in the evening.

*Thursday*, Carols at Pembridge House in the morning, Hyde School Nativity Service in the afternoon/evening.

*Friday*, Carols at King's Court, Christingle at Hale School, School Fayre at Breamore, ATC Dinner in the evening.

*Saturday*, Hope to get to Hale Food Market in the morning, and an Open the Book meeting at the Rectory in the afternoon.

**JUST CAROLS** : Thursday, December 20th, St Mary's, Fordingbridge. Any instrumentalists , young or old, are welcome to come and join the band for the evening. Let Gary know if you are interested.

**FORDWICK VILLAGE CHRISTMAS FAYRE:** Thank you so much to everyone who contributed books, gifts, toiletries, bottles, jars, cans and homemade jams, pickles and chutneys. Together with the cake raffle, the treasure hunt, wreath orders, sweets, Traidcraft and the voucher raffle we had lots to attract our many visitors over all three days. Finally a massive thank you to the stalwart folk who agreed to price and label up all the 'stuff' beforehand and to the stalwart folk who helped to man the stalls. There was a great team atmosphere!! Judith Dowsett

**OPEN SPACE** : Open Space has been having a rest but will be back refreshed in the new year with more talks and discussions. If you have ideas or topics you would like debated please let us know. Daphne Himmel 655505.

**WHAT IS THE MISSION MATTERS GROUP?** Meeting 3/4 times a year to raise the profile of Mission and Social Justice in our churches, representatives from the Partnership churches, supported by the Rev'ds Gary, Nicky, and Mike, provide opportunities to explore our faith and what it involves. Watch out for the 'Books To Borrow' Pop Up table and our Traidcraft stalls; and don't miss the Speakers coming in 2019 to talk in our churches about The Children's Society (10 Feb), Open Doors (12 May) and Christian Aid (19 May). Want to know more? Contact John & Pat Bloomfield (837735) or Alan & Gwenda Moore (650104)

**FORDINGBRIDGE STEWARDSHIP RETURNS** : To date I have received 50 returns from the 200 plus letters sent. I would appreciate as many returns as possible even if there are no changes. Many thanks Martin Calver

**AVP CHRISTMAS CARDS** : are now in all churches, please do give them out to your friends, families and neighbours. All are welcome at any of our services.

**Fordingbridge Choral Society** : presents **“Noël” A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION** with a delightful programme including the Oratorio de Noël by C. Saint-Saëns, Two Coronation Anthems by G. F. Handel and Carols for Choir and Audience with the Edwards Ensemble at **7 30pm** on **Saturday 15th December 2018** in **St Mary’s Church, Fordingbridge**. Tickets: £10 in advance, (£12 at the door, £5 for age 16 and under, FCS Associates free), include interval mulled wine and mince pies and are available from The Fordingbridge Bookshop in Salisbury Street, online at [www.fordingbridgechoral.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.fordingbridgechoral.ticketsource.co.uk) or please ring Jane Calver, FCS Publicity Secretary, on 01425 656189 to book.

**WOODGREEN Church hosts ‘Pop-up Pub’ for community without a pub!**

While Woodgreen’s village pub is closed, St Boniface church opposite is popping-up to refresh the community, not just spiritually but with festive tipples sourced from local suppliers. Supported by their fantastic village shop and local breweries, the church is offering a licensed social space for locals to raise a glass together. The ‘Pub’ is calling itself the “Room at the Inn” and plans to be open on the following dates and times:

Friday 14 December 2018	18.00 - 23.00
Saturday 15 December 2018	11.30 - 14.30
Friday 21 December 2018	18.00 - 23.00
Saturday 22 December 2018	11.30 - 14.30
Tuesday 25 December 2018	12.00 - 14.00 – Christmas Day!

The Horse and Groom pub is currently being sold by its present owners and locals are putting together a bid to buy it for the community.

**FAIRTRADE FRIDAY COFFEE MORNINGS** : All are welcome at the Fairtrade Friday Coffee Morning at St Boniface Church, Woodgreen SP6 2AJ—held on the last Friday of the month (except for December). 2019 dates are :

Fri Jan 25 <sup>th</sup>	
Fri Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Big Brew in aid of Traidcraft
Fri Mar 29 <sup>th</sup>	Special FREE event to encourage new friends
Fri Apr 26 <sup>th</sup>	Including a traditional English singalong for St. George’s Day
Fri May 31 <sup>st</sup>	then “Ploughman’s and a Pud” lunch for Christian Aid
Fri Jun 28 <sup>th</sup>	
Fri Jul 26 <sup>th</sup>	
Fri Aug 30 <sup>th</sup>	
Fri Sep 27 <sup>th</sup>	To be followed by a “Fish and Chips” lunch
Fri Oct 25 <sup>th</sup>	To include “Gravetalk”
Fri Nov 29 <sup>th</sup>	Including a traditional Scottish singalong for St Andrew’s Day
Fri Dec 13 <sup>th</sup>	Special Christmas coffee morning

**FORDINGBRIDGE MOTHERS’ UNION** : We invite everyone to our Advent Service on Wednesday December 12th at 2.30pm in St Mary’s Church, and afterwards for seasonal refreshments.

**ADVENT LUNCHESES** : the last Advent Lunch will be on Wednesday 12 December at St Mary’s Church Hall, Fordingbridge, after the 11.30am service in church.



**CAROL SINGING AROUND THE PARISH** : We shall once again be singing Christmas Carols in some of the care homes and sheltered accommodation around Fordingbridge. It will just be a matter of turning up if you can on the day, and singing favourite carols - we've been invited by a number of places to come and sing :

Pembridge House	Thur 13 Dec	11.00am
Kings Court	Friday 14 Dec	10.30am
Allenbrook	Mon 17 Dec	11.00am
Ford Ward	Tue 18 Dec	2.00pm
Homebridge House	Wed 19 Dec	10.00am
Fordingbridge Care Home	Wed 19 Dec	3.00pm
Avonway Lunch Club	Thur 20 Dec	12noon
Glynn Court	Thur 20 Dec	2.30pm

Saturday Dec 22, 10am to 11am—Carols around the Christmas tree at the Gourmet Grocer. Please do sign up on the sheet in St Mary's Fordingbridge if you are able to come along, it is much appreciated by the audiences!

**HYDE MOTHERS' UNION** : On Tuesday 11th December at 7.30pm, Hyde Mothers Union will be holding their Christmas Gathering . Following a Service of readings, poems, carols and songs we shall enjoy festive refreshments. We hope that you will join us and please remember that we are in Frogham Chapel.

**HELP REQUIRED AT HYDE SCHOOL** : The headteacher has asked if church could assist with a helper on a Wednesday morning from 10 until 12 when they take some of their children to the village hall. I am hoping to set up a rota so that we only need to commit to once a month each. If you would like to be involved once a month during term time, please get in touch with Jo, the families worker by email [families@avp-benefice.org.uk](mailto:families@avp-benefice.org.uk) or by phone 07515533685.Thank you in anticipation.

## **REFLECTION :**

Angela Tilby, a Canon Emeritus of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford tells us “Apostles are missionaries, and we share their calling to be caught up in the living stream of God’s love for the world. We can never control or determine the path of that stream but we can – and should – go with the flow” - We might sometimes, in our quiet time, imagine we are gliding gently along a river and dropping each thought as it comes to us into the flow of the river. In the quiet we may begin to feel ourselves to be part of the stream of God’s love. One by one those thoughts will drift back to us and we may find that we see each one with greater love and understanding. These are our Advent gifts that we may see with more understanding, with greater courage to share with others especially those in need. This may seem rather a comical fantasy but is a way of praying which can give us more and more understanding of God within and show us more clearly how we are all one.

Daphne Himmel

# This Week –9 December 2018-Advent 2

<b>Sunday 9</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Hyde</b>
	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Morning Carol Service</b>	<b>Woodgreen</b>
	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>
	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>	<b>Breamore</b>
<b>Monday 10</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Morning Prayer	Fordingbridge
	<i>2.00pm</i>	<i>Funeral—late Joan Barnaby</i>	<i>Woodgreen</i>
<b>Wednesday 12</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Morning Prayer	Fordingbridge
	<i>10.00am</i>	<i>Funeral—late Albert Elliott</i>	<i>Fordingbridge</i>
	<b>10.00am</b>	Prayer Meeting	Frogham Chapel
	<b>11.30am</b>	Holy Communion	Fordingbridge
	<b>12.00pm</b>	Advent Lunch, Church Hall	Fordingbridge
<b>Thursday 13</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Prayers then coffee morning, village hall	Godshill
	<i>2.00pm</i>	<i>Funeral—late Jean Gurd</i>	<i>Woodgreen</i>
	<b>7.30pm</b>	Bell Ringing	Fordingbridge
<b>Friday 14</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Fairtrade Coffee Morning	Woodgreen
	<b>6.20pm</b>	Choir practice	Fordingbridge
<b>Sunday 16</b>	<b>8.00am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>8.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Hyde</b>
	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>	<b>Godshill</b>
		<i>(no Breamore, Hale or 10am Hyde)</i>	
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Sung Eucharist</b>	<b>Fordingbridge</b>
	<b>10.45am</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>
	<b>4.30pm</b>	<b>Christingle Service</b>	<b>Hyde</b>
	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Carols by Candlelight, darkness to light</b>	<b>Woodgreen</b>
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Carol Service by Candlelight</b>	<b>Sandleheath</b>
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Carol Service by Candlelight</b>	<b>Breamore</b>

Contact : Jackie Garratt or Gail Newell, Church Office, The Rainbow Centre, 39 Salisbury Street, Fordingbridge SP6 1AB  
 Tel. 01425 653163 e-mail:church.office@fordingbridge.com www.avp-benefice.org.uk

**CHURCH OFFICE OPEN - MONDAY TO FRIDAY 10.30am to 12 noon**