



# **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November**

## **First Sunday of Advent**

The bible readings for this Sunday are:  
I Corinthians 1. 3-9 and Mark 13. 24-end

### **Today's Collect**

**Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the  
light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

### **An Advent Carol Service on Zoom**

#### ***"Looking for the Light"***

#### **A traditional Advent Carol service**

Sunday November 29<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 pm – gathering from 6.00pm. If you would like to join in with this service, hosted by West Hill for all in the Mission Community, please get in touch with Sue in the church office, [churchoffice@otterystmary.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@otterystmary.org.uk) before the end of this week (Friday 27<sup>th</sup>) to receive log-in details and an order of service to print.

Everyone Welcome! Bring Your Own Candle!

## **“Advent Waiting”**

**Thoughts for this Sunday from the Ven. Andrew Beane, Archdeacon of Exeter**

All of us are waiting for this terrible virus to go, or at least to know when things might begin to get back to what we are calling the ‘new normal’. Waiting is part of life. Waiting for that package to arrive that we ordered online at record speed. Waiting in line at the self-checkout at the supermarket, designed to eliminate the evils of waiting. Waiting for that great job to come along; or waiting for that elusive perfect relationship. The waiting seems to never end. Researchers tell us that the average person will spend 5 years of his or her life waiting in line, 2 years playing telephone tag, and six months sitting at red lights. That is over 7 and a half years of waiting, at best doing nothing, or at worst experiencing great aggravation! The bottom line is that even in our fast-paced world, with post modern conveniences, we are all waiting for something. However, as strange as it sounds, during the Advent season, we discover a purpose to our waiting. Let me explain.

You think we have it rough, how about waiting thousands of years, not for something minor like groceries, but for the king whose eternal reign would end the oppression of the world? What do we think about thousands of people hoping and praying fervently for something miraculous to happen, while successive generations are born and pass away, without a hint of fulfilment? I am speaking here of the ancient Hebrew patriarchs, kings, prophets, and priests, who waited expectantly for the coming of the Messiah. The prophet Isaiah expresses this hope:

*It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord...He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (Isaiah 2:2-5, RSV).*

Then, hundreds of years later, born in Bethlehem, a small town in the Roman Empire, their hope is finally realized, but with a twist, because Jesus is not the earthly warrior-king many expected. And this is only the beginning of the story. All of this makes our own waiting seem pretty insignificant. Somehow waiting five extra minutes for a bus; standing waiting in the queue to pay a cheque in at the bank; or waiting for that all too familiar call of "Cashier number two please" doesn't feel so important anymore. So whilst you are waiting why not take a moment to reflect, to pause, and to slow down, and in the run up to Christmas contemplate all we have to be thankful for.

## Church Diary for the w/c 30th November

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	8.30am 10am-12 noon	Morning Prayer in the Dorset Aisle Church Open for Private Prayer
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12 noon	Church Open for Private Prayer Delivery of the Church Christmas Tree

### Church News and Notices

**In our prayers** – Michael Foster, Dorothy Ward, Myra Risk, Jayne Costello, Hazel Abley, Pat Cottrell, Patricia Jackson, Anne Decent, Ruth and Barrie Swift, Derek Baxter, Pat Roy, Shirley-Ann Williams, Julia Hopper, Lizzie Gleaves, and Ken and Rosemary Dafforn. We pray for the bereaved, especially for Tony Delahay whose partner Joanna has died and for the family of Joyce Scutt.

**Morning Prayer** will restart on Wednesday at 8.30am in the Dorset Aisle.

**Sundays in December** – We are delighted that church services can resume in December and we will be returning to the pattern of two short services, one at 10am and one at 11am starting on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December, when Rev Sid Humphries will be with us.



**Church Christmas Cards** – We are selling some Church Christmas Cards to raise funds for the PCC. There are two designs, "Ottery Church in the Snow" and "Crib Figures", priced at £1 per card. For more information or to order,



please contact David Roberts,  
[david.coral683844@btinternet.com](mailto:david.coral683844@btinternet.com) or 01404 813961.

**Support our church while you shop** - If you are buying Christmas gifts – or indeed anything else - on Amazon, you can help support Ottery St Mary PCC at no cost to yourself, simply by using [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) and selecting us as your default charity of choice. Every time you buy something, we will then receive a small donation from Amazon. You can click through to [smile.amazon](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) via the donation page on our website.

**South West Carols**, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December, 7pm live online, with traditional carols, creative musical items and a children's nativity [www.southwestcarols.com](http://www.southwestcarols.com)

**Shirley-Ann** - As many of you know, Shirley-Ann Williams has moved to a nursing home in Chertsey to be nearer her family while she recuperates. If you would like to call her, the telephone number of the home, which is called The Grange, is 01932 562361.

**The Ottery Prayer Diary** for the first two weeks of December is now on the website.

**Church keys** – If you have a set of church keys that you no longer require for church business, please could you arrange to hand them back to David Roberts or you can post them into the church office post box with a note to say whose keys are being returned. Many thanks.

**Church Corporation Appointments** - It is with much pleasure we can announce Ian Godfrey and Simon Lowne have recently been appointed Assistant Governors. Both gentlemen live in the town and were chosen from a list of fourteen female and male likely/possible candidates to fill the two vacancies. By Letters Patent dated the 24<sup>th</sup> December 1545, Henry VIII completed the dissolution of the college and decreed there should be four local residents as governors and that they should have succession for ever. In 1552, Edward VI ordered the governors to appoint eight others to be associated for their assistance. This constitution continues to the present day. It is interesting to note that the only other Churches in the South West having governors are at Crediton and Wimborne Minster. In David Roberts we have an excellent Clerk and appreciate all the hard work he does on our behalf. At present the four Governors are:- myself as Chair, Richard Coley (Vice Chair), Graham Ward and John Akers. The eight Assistant Governors are Lord 'Bill' Coleridge, Ian Godfrey, David Hemmings, Norman Lawrence, Simon Lowne, John Maybery, Chris Stirling and Brian Waterfield. Arthur Passey

**Comfort and Joy** – You can now sign up for the Church of England's free "Comfort and Joy" Advent and Christmas email reflections at <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/faith-action/living-out-our-faith/advent-and-christmas/comfort-and-joy-our-advent-and>  
For those without the internet, some of the Comfort and Joy reflections and services will be available on the Daily Hope phone line 0800 804 8044.

**Churchwardens:** Grenville Gilbert 01404 815142 [grenville.gilbert@otterystmary.org.uk](mailto:grenville.gilbert@otterystmary.org.uk) and Margaret Whitlock 01404 814840 [margaret.whitlock@otterystmary.org.uk](mailto:margaret.whitlock@otterystmary.org.uk)  
Assistant wardens: Brian Cammack, 01404 811280 [brian.r.cammack@uwclub.net](mailto:brian.r.cammack@uwclub.net) Di Passey 01404 813615 [a.and.dpassey@btinternet.com](mailto:a.and.dpassey@btinternet.com) Rosie Hall 01404 758164 [johnandrosiehall@btinternet.com](mailto:johnandrosiehall@btinternet.com) and Jill Rose (see below).

**Pastoral Care Co-ordinator:** Jill Rose 01404 814709, [jill.rose@otterystmary.org.uk](mailto:jill.rose@otterystmary.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.otterystmary.org.uk](http://www.otterystmary.org.uk)      **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/otterystmarychurch](https://www.facebook.com/otterystmarychurch)

**The Church Office:** 01404 812062 [churchoffice@otterystmary.org.uk](mailto:churchoffice@otterystmary.org.uk) (phone and email messages checked daily during lockdown)

**Revd Mark Ward:** 01395 568390