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**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT** 15 December 2024

**Choral Eucharist:** Mass for four voices (William Byrd) **Motet:** This is the record of John (Orlando Gibbons) **Voluntary:** Movement II Spirituoso from Voluntary 1 (William Russell)

**Hymns at PC**: NEH 12, 409, 168, 415 (omit \*)

**Hymns at HT:** NEH 12, 3, 409, 168, 415 (omit \*)

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

**Saturday 14 December** 10am-12 noon Advent Prayer Spaces with James (Parish Church)

4pm The Well: Quiet Christmas (Holy Trinity)

**Sunday 15 December** **THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8am Eucharist (Parish Church) *Preacher: the Vicar*

9.15am Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity) *Preacher: the Vicar*

10.30am Choral Eucharist (PC) *Preacher: Mary Harwood*

**Monday 16 December** 9am-11am Trinity Tots (Holy Trinity)

9.30am Eucharist (Parish Church)

7.30pm Advent Prayer Group (Online)

**Tuesday 17 December** 9.30am Old Testament Bible Study Group (*see notice below)*

2.30pm Care Home Carols (Sanctuary)

5.45pm Bible Reading Book Club (Holy Trinity)

*Refreshments from 5.30pm*

7pm Eucharist (Holy Trinity)

**Wednesday 18 December** 12 noon Holy Half Hour (Parish Church)

Around Table Christmas Lunch (HT) *Pre-booked places only*

**Friday 20 December** 11am Care Home Communion & Carols (Elmbrook)

12 noon Eucharist (Parish Church)

3pm Christingle (Holy Trinity)

**Saturday 21 December** 10.30am-11.30am Christmas Tree Decorating (Parish Church)

4pm Vigil Mass (Holy Trinity)

**Sunday** **22 December** **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8am Eucharist (Parish Church)

9.15am Sung Eucharist (Holy Trinity) *Preacher: David Richardson*

10.30am Choral Eucharist (PC) *Preacher: David Richardson*

7pm Carols by Candlelight (Parish Church)

**Morning Prayer** is said in the Parish Church at 9am Monday-Friday.

**Eucharist at the Convent** Tuesday–Saturday at 10am, all welcome (space permitting).

READINGS & PRAYERS

**Collect**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**First Reading****: Zephaniah 3:14-end**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

**Canticle from Isaiah**

**Response: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation**

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord God is my strength and my might;

he has become my salvation. **R/.**

With joy you will draw water

from the wells of salvation.

And you will say on that day:

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;

make known his deeds among the nations;

proclaim that his name is exalted. **R/.**

Sing praises to the Lord,

for he has done gloriously;

let this be known in all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R/.**

**Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Gospel: Luke 3:7-18**

Alleluia, **Alleluia**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptised by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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 axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’ And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ Even tax-collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**Post-Communion Prayer**

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. **Amen.**

**For Your Prayers:** Sarah Clark, Lizzie, Beth Hirst, Natalie, Rowland Jenkins, Sirma, Sybil Smith, Phoebe, Mary, Chris, Sharon, Glauce, Jessie, Abby, Steve West, Pat and Dave, Amanda.

**RIP:** Jan Balkwill

**Please also pray for:** our school children, families and staff, particularly those moving on at the end of term; our Christmas Charities: BeSpace, Sobell House Hospice and the Red Cross Gaza Crisis Appeal.

**Readings & Hymns for next Sunday**:

Micah 5:2-5a, Canticle: Magnificat, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45

Hymns at PC: NEH 1, 19, 21, 11

Hymns at HT: NEH 1, 186, 19, 21, 11

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BAPTISM, FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION:** Preparation classes will begin in January for children, teenagers and adults, leading to baptism and first communion at Easter and/or confirmation with the Bishop in May. If you or your child are interested in taking the next step of commitment in the Christian faith, or you would like to find out more, please contact the Vicar.

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2025**: **In the Footsteps of the Northern Saints.** May 2025, details tbc but we need expressions of interest by **22 December** please. Email curate@wantageparish.com

**CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING:** We will be decorating the Christmas tree in the Parish Church on **Saturday 21 December between 10.30am and 11.30am**. Why not come along and join in the fun? There will be coffee and mince pies to enjoy as well.

**NEW GROUPS** coming up in the New Year! **Weekly home group** hosted by Andrew and Caroline Haines please email candahaines@gmail.com **“Fully Booked” monthly book club** please contact David Richardson dcrwantageparish@gmail.com and **Beer & Bible** please contact Laurence Price laurence@wantageparish.com. Please have a think this Advent about whether you would like to get involved with any of these.

**ADVENT ONLINE PRAYER GROUP: Mondays at 7.30pm**. Advent-themed input from ‘Pray As You Go’ followed by silence, prayer, and discussion. Contact Susie (s.lapwood@gmail.com) for link.

**CHRISTINGLE:** There will be a family Christingle Service for children of all ages on **Friday 20 December at 3pm** at Holy Trinity led by the Trinity Tots team with crafts and carols. Booking is not essential but to register your interest, please see Wantage Parish events at Ticketsource.co.uk, or chat to James.

**YOGHURT POTS NEEDED!** For a Christingle activity. Please leave any you have in the boxes clearly marked at both churches near the notice boards.

**CARE HOME COMMUNION AND CAROLS** will be celebrated at Sanctuary Care Home on **Tuesday 17 December** at 2.30pm and Elmbrook Care Home on **Friday 20 December** at 11am. All welcome.

**GOODBOX HOLY TRINITY:** We have become aware that the GoodBox card-reader at Holy Trinity has not been connecting to Wi-Fi to process card payments for some time. The issue was resolved last week for the Dickensian Evening, however we understand that the reader has now processed a backlog of payments - possibly stretching back some months - in one single go. We apologise if this has affected you and if it is a cause for concern, please contact our Treasurer, Claire Hunter, via email: treasurer@wantageparish.com.

**CHURCH COFFEE ROTA:** Offering refreshments after the main Sunday services in both churches is an important opportunity to offer fellowship to both existing and new parishioners. If you could help provide teas and coffees once a month in either church, please contact Alison Jestico at the Parish Church(alison.jestico@gmail.com) or Ann Gregory at Holy Trinity (ann\_m\_gregory@hotmail.com)

CONTACT DETAILS

**Vicar:** Revd. Katherine Price (Rest Day: Thursday) 01235 768806 vicar@wantageparish.com

**Curate:** Revd Dr Frances Caroe (Rest Day: Friday) 07856 278983 curate@wantageparish.com

**Parish Administrator:** Cathryn Stanton 01235 764533 administrator@wantageparish.com

**Event Bookings**: Cathryn Stanton 01235 764533 bookings@wantageparish.com

**Churchwardens**: Alastair Hunter alastair.churchwarden@wantageparish.com

Janet Kingdon janet.churchwarden@wantageparish.com

**Parish Assistant**: James Clarke james.parishasst@wantageparish.com

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** Matt Godfrey safeguarding@wantageparish.com

**Director of Music:** Phil Johnson music@wantageparish.com

**Personal Discipleship Plan:** Susie Lapwood pdp@wantageparish.com

**Parish Website**: www.wantageparish.com