

Wykeham Benefice Pewsheet
Advent Sunday **December 3rd 2017**

Collect

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 came to visit us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall return in clouds and great glory, we may rise to the life eternal, through Him who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 13:24-37

'But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

For prayer this week

For the light of Christ to shine into all the dark places of this world – where there is war, violence, terrorism, exploitation, discrimination, poverty, need, or injustice.

That we will use these weeks of Advent for reflection and prayer as well as for preparation for Christmas.

The sick

Doreen Pratt, Sue Colquhoun, Linda Nunneley, Erica Wimbush

RIP

Muriel (Ruth Dale's 108 yr old Mum)

The week ahead

Ronald and Liz are away for the week (caravan in Devizes for a change!) celebrating 30 glorious years.

Tue 5th 10am Holy Communion in Tadmerton

Fri 8th 6.30pm Benefice Choir Practice in Broughton

Sat 9th 9am Morning Prayer in Shutford

4pm Messy Church in Shutford Village Hall

Sun 10th 8am BCP HC in Sibford

10am Bishop Colin, President and Preacher at Benefice Communion in Broughton

5pm St Nicholas Service in Epwell

Exploring the Beatitudes; Bishop Steven's 3 session course. "Contemplative, Compassionate, Courageous"

All really a bit last minute I'm afraid, but *this will be something well worth doing*. I have copies of the booklet which you could have to use either on your own or with family or friends; I can also host a group...**Monday and Wednesday December 11,13, at my house at 7.30pm** – just arrive if you are free, even for one of those evenings, and we'll at least make a start.

Being a Christlike Church; I invite you to add your thoughts and comments to the small displays about being more Contemplative, Compassionate and Courageous. Please print your idea on a post-it-note....and post it!

The Beatitudes; Bishop Steven invites us to "dwell in the word" as we explore these wonderful sayings.

There are bookmarks with The Beatitudes on in all churches. Each week there will be a 'prompt' to help you 'dwell' as you enjoy quiet before worship or after Holy Communion. Please take The Beatitude bookmarks home if you wish, or leave them in the pew for next week.

This week's 'prompt'; How and Where do you spend time with God? (Contemplative)