

Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich

12th December 2021—3rd Sunday of Advent

Hymn Numbers: 401, 470, 196, 98, 209

Collect:

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A reading from the Book of Isaiah (12:2-6)

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. 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. 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.

A reading from the Epistle to the 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.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (3.1-6)

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized 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 baptized, 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 baptize 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 baptize 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.

This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.



Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Notices:

Christingle Making: can you spare some time to help make some Christingles for a school visit the next morning? If so, please come along to the Vicarage on Wednesday 15th December at 7pm. Mince pies will be provided!

First Aiders: Do you hold a current first aid certificate? Would you be willing to use your skills in church if the need arose? If so, please let Rachel or Lyanne know! We'd like to keep a list of qualified first aiders (although we hope not to need it!).

Funding Committee: we are looking for volunteers to be on a funding committee. The purpose is to find and apply for grants for our building work. If this might be you, please speak to Rachel or John.

Christmas Notices:

Christmas Flowers: if you'd like to donate towards our Christmas flower display in church, please give the money to Alison. Thank you!

Inspiring Angels: Our Christmas theme this year is Angels. As part of this we want to 'angel bomb' our parish! This means we are looking for crafted angels of any type / colour / material, to hang in windows, shops, notice boards, your homes, everywhere!

Christmas Fayre: thank you to all who volunteered at the Fayre, and to all who came along! The support we had was incredible, and we raised a net profit of **£1,800!**

Advent Taize Service: Hosted by the St. Thomas Pilgrim Community on Monday 13th December at 7:30pm. Light refreshments will be provided afterwards.

Carol Service: Next Sunday at 6pm—let your friends and family know!

Church Website:

<http://stthomasipswich.org.uk/>

Sunday Worship & other Worship resources on the Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasipswich/>

This Week:

Sunday 12th December (Advent 3)

10am: Eucharist with Facebook livestream

12noon: Church Christmas Meal at Hintlesham George

6pm: Quiet Christmas (a peaceful, quiet Christmas service)

Monday 13th December

11.30-1.30: Church open for prayer

7.30pm: STPC Advent Taize Service

Tuesday 14th December

7.30pm: Zoom Meditation Group. Contact Lucy for details & link:

lucydrake22@gmail.com

Wednesday 15th December

10am: Eucharist

7pm: Faith Pictures (in Community Room)

7pm: Christingle making in the Vicarage

Thursday 16th December

11.30-1.30: Church open for prayer

Sunday 19th December (Advent 4)

10am: Eucharist with Facebook livestream

6pm: Carol Service



Rebecca Lowe (12th)
Amber Wilcox (16th)
Eric Baker (18th)

Please pray for:

Rosemary, Eric, Jenny, Kathy, Andrew, Peggy, Margaret, Natacha, Samantha, Theresa, Gloria, Leslie, Angela, Helen, Pat, Daniel, Ezra, Eddie, Penny, Naomi

Contacts:

Priest in Charge: Revd Rachel Revely

m: 07429 325559 **Email:** rachel.revely@outlook.com

Rachel's days off: Fridays and Saturdays

Assistant Curate: Revd Cat Connolly

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Cat's day off: Mondays

Assistant Curate, SSM: Revd John Irwin

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John's Parish days (normally): Wednesday and Thursday

Lay Evangelist: Malcolm Gibbs **m:** 07906 663530

Director of Music: Simon Clark BA FLCM FRCO

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Church wardens: Roger Elmer **m:** 07810 274586

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If you would like to chat, you could also ring:

Mary Bullass 625135

Gloria Elmer 745590

Rev Jackie 07962 172639

Rev Pat 464748

Rev Canon Chris 462109