Teign Valley & Haldon Hill Mission Community
***Scattered Church*: Worship at home on 06/12/26 Advent 2 (St Nicholas)**

Hymn

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. *Bernadette Farrell b. 1957*

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

We meet in the presence of God
who knows our needs,
hears our cries,
feels our pain,
and heals our wounds.

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith. *cf John 1.23*

Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself and cleanse us from all our sins,
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The 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 God. **Amen.**

Readings

Isaiah 40:1-11
Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'
A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!'
See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

2 Peter 3:8-15
But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be

disclosed.
Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.
Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"',
John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

(Dial 01647 407047 to hear it again during the week)

Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?
I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?
I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?
I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.
This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

Awaiting his coming in glory, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Peace

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts. *cf Psalm 85.8; 1 Samuel 12.20*
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Notices

We say together:
Eternal God, our beginning and our end,
accompany us in this day's journey.
Dawn on our darkness,
open our eyes to praise you for your creation
and to see the work you set before us today.
Take us and use us
to bring to others the new life you give in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

Hymn

Hark, a herald voice is sounding:
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say.
"Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!"

Startled at the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heav'n;

let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the co-eternal Spirit,
while unending ages run.

William Henry Monk 1823-1889

Teign Valley & Haldon Hill Mission Community Services

Telephone Services

(Call 0333 0110 616; code 334 7721)

Sundays at 9am: Sunday Worship – a half hour Service of the Word: hymns, readings and prayers

Church Services

Dec 6 Advent 2	**10.30am MC HC St John the Baptist Ashton**
	10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford
Fri 11 Dec	**5.30pm Carols in the Churchyard St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock**
Dec 13 Advent 3	**10.30am MC HC St Thomas Becket Bridford**
	10.30am Christingle St Mary Dunsford
Tues 15 Dec	**6.00pm Carol Service St James Christow**
Wed 16 Dec	**4.00pm Doddiscombsleigh Community Christmas**
Dec 20 Advent 4	**10.30am MC HC St James Christow**
	10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford
	10.30am MC HC St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock
	6.00pm Carol Service St Mary Dunsford
Mon 21 Dec	**5.00pm Carol Service St Michael Doddiscombsleigh**
Christmas Eve	**4.00pm Crib Service St Mary Dunsford**
	6.00pm Carol Service St Thomas Becket Bridford
	9.00pm Christmas HC St Michael Doddiscombsleigh
	9.00pm Christmas HC St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock
	10.00pm Carol Service St John the Baptist Ashton
	10.00pm Christmas HC St Mary Dunsford
Christmas Day	**10.30am Christmas HC St James Christow**
	10.30am Christmas Family Service St Mary Dunsford
Dec 27 John, Apostle & Evangelist	**10.30am MC HC St Mary Dunsford**

2027

Jan 3 Epiphany	**10.30am HC St John the Baptist Ashton**
	10.30am HC St Michael Doddiscombsleigh
	10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford
Jan 10 Baptism of Christ	**10.30am HC St Thomas Becket Bridford**
	10.30am HC St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock
	10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford
Jan 17 Epiphany 2	**10.30am HC St James Christow**

	10.30am HC St Mary Dunsford
Jan 24 Conversion of	10.30am MC HC St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock
St Paul	10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford
Jan 31 Candlemas/	10.30am MC HC St James Christow
Presentation of Christ	10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford
in the Temple	4.00pm Forest Church Ashton
Feb 7 Sunday before	10.30am HC St John the Baptist Ashton
Lent	10.30am HC St Michael Doddiscombsleigh
	10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford
Feb 10 Ash Wednesday	6.00pm HC with Imposition of Ashes St Thomas Becket Bridford
Feb 14 Lent 1	10.30am HC St Thomas Becket Bridford
	10.30am HC St Michael & All Angels Dunchideock
	10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford
Feb 21 Lent 2	10.30am HC St James Christow
	10.30am HC St Mary Dunsford
Feb 28 Lent 3	10.30am MC HC St Michael Doddiscombsleigh
	10.30am Service of the Word St Mary Dunsford|
	4.00pm Forest Church Ashton
March 7 Mothering	10.30am MC HC St James Christow
Sunday	10.30am Family Service St Mary Dunsford

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Ashton **Bridford** **Christow**

Doddiscombleigh **Dunchideock** **Dunsford**