



Sunday December 13th

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Eucharist 10.15am

*President and
Preacher
The Vicar*

Message from Fr Kevin

When John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, he declined to say who he was but pointed away from himself to Jesus and the future he was bringing. Do we, by our faith, attitudes and lifestyle do the same? And are we living now as if the future kingdom were already here?

A prayer for all those affected by Coronavirus

Keep us good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort,
knowing that nothing can separate us
from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

Weekly notices

Today is Stewardship Sunday Please place your completed pledge forms of money, time and talents in the plate at the back of church. These will be offered at today's Eucharist. Outstanding forms and gifts will still be received after today!

Christmas Hamper Raffle generously donated by Bedford Club Tickets are available at £1 each. Proceeds to St Paul's. See / contact Ann Collett-White: to buy: 07989 837819 / ann@simla.org.uk

Following Government guidance, The church remains open for private prayer only between 12 noon and 2.00pm Monday to Saturday.

Covid Bedford is in Tier 2: we are reminded that government restrictions require us NOT to socialise in church please: outside is fine!

Please be advised the office telephone and broadband services are currently down. We are working with BT to restore service as quickly as possible.

Weekly Stewardship Envelopes Please collect your 2021 yellow stewardship envelopes from the back of church.

Christmas Services at St Paul's will be attendance by ticket only, bookable online from Eventbrite. A limited number of tickets can be collected in person from Alison Phillipson after today's service and from the church office Mon-Fri between 12 noon and 2.00pm.

Saturday 19th December 4pm ~
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve 24th December 4pm ~
Crib Service
Christmas Day 25th December
10.15am ~ Festival Sung Eucharist

Readings for THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Old Testament

Isaiah 61: 1-4; 8-end

61:1 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; 61:2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 61:3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

61:4 They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. 61:8 For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. 61:9 Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 61:11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.



Psalm

Psalm 126

126:1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. 126:2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." 126:3 The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. 126:4 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb. 126:5 May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. 126:6 Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

New Testament

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

5:16 Rejoice always,
5:17 pray without ceasing,
5:18 give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ
Jesus for you.
5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.
5:20 Do not despise the words of
prophets,
5:21 but test everything; hold fast to
what is good;
5:22 abstain from every form of evil.
5:23 May the God of peace himself
sanctify you entirely; and may your
spirit and soul and body be kept
sound and blameless at the coming of
our Lord Jesus Christ.
5:24 The one who calls you is faithful,
and he will do this.



The Gospel

John 1: 6-8; 19-28

1:6 There was a man sent from
God, whose name was John. 1:7 He
came as a witness to testify to the
light, so that all might believe
through him. 1:8 He himself was
not the light, but he came to testify
to the light.

1:19 This is the testimony given by
John when the Jews sent priests
and Levites from Jerusalem to ask
him, "Who are you?" 1:20 He con-
fessed and did not deny it, but con-
fessed, "I am not the Messiah." 1:21
And they asked him, "What then?
Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not."
"Are you the prophet?" He
answered, "No."

1:22 Then they said to him, "Who
are you? Let us have an answer for
those who sent us. What do you
say about yourself?" 1:23 He said, "I
am the voice of one crying out in
the wilderness, 'Make straight the
way of the Lord,'" as the prophet
Isaiah said. 1:24 Now they had been
sent from the Pharisees. 1:25 They
asked him, "Why then are you
baptizing if you are neither the
Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the
prophet?" 1:26 John answered them,
"I baptize with water. Among you
stands one whom you do not
know, 1:27 the one who is coming
after me; I am not worthy to untie
the thong of his sandal." 1:28 This
took place in Bethany across the
Jordan where John was baptizing.

Useful links for services online and broadcast schedules

For those with access to the internet please visit the St Paul's website here for service details: [https://](https://www.stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk/)

www.stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk/

See also the service recordings page here:

https://www.stpaulschurchbedford.org.uk/worship_prayer_vicars_recordings.shtml

Collect for the Day

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 forever.



For your prayers

- Daily:** Jane Bowler
David Butson
Meg Curran
- Mon:** Fr. Denis Desert
Susan Middleton
Dorothy Holland
Patricia Ffolkes
- Tue:** Maurice Leusby
Andrew Fensome
Peter Snook
Margaret Brown
- Wed:** Pamela & Peter Brown
Deirdre Pearson
Ray Edwards
- Thurs:** Akhmat Jan
Heike Kreuer
Robin James
- Fri:** Wendy Goss
Marion Ridgway
Sarah Chatwin
Canon Michael Bradley
- Sat:** Frederik Arvidsson
Jim Bailey
Peter Haslett
Gavin Mills
- RIP** Simon Baynes
Pat Robertson

Year's mind:

Gina Bettossini	13th
James Hugh Jelly	13th
Pamela Jean Bacon	13th
Charles William Fenn	14th
John Baggardige	14th
Norman Munday	15th
Leonard Davies	15th
Joyce Jelly	15th
Connie Thacker	15th
Joan Clare	15th
Sallie Phillips	16th
David Edward Latta	16th
Victor Brown	16th
Grace Ellen Whiting	18th
Olive Odell	19th
Nancy McNeill	19th