



Weekly Benefice Bulletin

Sunday 21st December 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Message from the Rector

Ow sos ger,

As we advance through the Christian season of Advent we begin to use some very specific O Antiphons... Not everyone understands this tradition. We are more familiar to us as the carol *O come O come Emmanuel*. As many of you know, I am influenced by the practice of the early Celtic Christians such as Aiden, Cuthbert and Hilda, who in turn were influenced by the practices of the Desert Fathers and Mothers. Reciting the Psalms daily, they would recite all 150 each week. This is impressive! I cannot claim to do the same by any means. However, an early practice said to be introduced by St Ambrose in the 4th century was to create introductory call and response sentences that introduced the theme of the readings. The call and response (antiphonal practice) would be sung by at least two choirs, one at the front of the church and one at the back. I've never experienced this practice but can imagine that in Gregorian chant this would make the hairs on the back of your neck stand up! So, returning to the Advent O Antiphons, these are introductory sentences written in the Psalmist style that introduce the theme of the day. But they also do something more!

During Advent we enter into the deep desire for Christ to come again. We somehow blend the early desires of the Jewish people for a Messiah and the promise of Jesus that he will come again into our Advent practice as we await the coming of our Lord. The O Antiphons begin on Dec 17th, it's as if there is an increase in tempo as we approach the day of our Lord's birth. The O Antiphons refer to a rich blend of scripture and imagery used to describe Christ's salvific works such as O Wisdom, O Morning Star, O Emmanuel and others. The title is then described as an act or attribute, followed by a plea from the heart O Come. You can find them on this website in both English and Latin: <https://www.westminster-above.org/worship-music/services-times/advent-and-christmas/the-great-o-antiphons/#25178>

As we continue our countdown to Christmas a few reminders:

No one Goes hungry is a Probus based charity that seeks to give families and individuals a Christmas dinner. Applicants can contact Eleanor through facebook or turn up at one of the Community Larder open times. The charity also accepts donations and this week is seeking Christmas cakes of all sizes and mince-pies with which to make up dinner trays. Financial donations are also welcomed as this will fund any shortfall items. So far, we have had 80 families apply.

Children's Society several of our churches offer a Christingle service at this time of year. Probus church has some spare 'candles' (money boxes) if needed. Please can I remind everyone to return their candles from last year to their local church.

Together at 10 Revd Canon Pat will be taking this service on 28th December at the Church of St Ladoca. It will be a service in which Holy Communion is celebrated, The service begins at 10.00am.

May I wish you all the blessings of the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of the Christ-child this Christmas and ever after.

Gras ha kres, Caroline

This week's services

Sunday 21st December
Fourth Sunday of Advent
'God's Promises'

Probus	9:30	Praise and Worship	Anthony
St Erme	9:30	Holy Communion	Bishop David
St Nun's	10:30	Parish Praise	William/Simon
Ladock	11:00	Holy Communion	Bishop David
Ladock	18:00	Carol Service with refreshments	Linda
Tresillian	15:00	Carol Service with festive refreshments	Linda

Readings this week

[Ps 80:1-8, 18-20](#)
[Rom 1:1-7](#)
[Matt 1:18-end](#)

Digging Deeper

As we look ahead to the readings for this coming Sunday, I invite you to pause, reflect and enter more deeply into the Word. Before the service, take time with the passage and ask the following four questions:

1. What does this passage tell me about God?
2. What does it tell me about human life?
3. If this really is God's word, what will I do in response to it?
4. Who am I going to tell about what I have learnt from this?

Collect Sunday

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Wednesday 24th December

Probus	23:30	Midnight Communion	Linda
St Nun's	17:30	Crib Service	Pat
St Nun's/G	21:00	Holy Communion	Pat
Ladock	16:00	Crib Service	Caroline
Ladock	23:30	Holy Communion	Caroline
Tresillian	20:00	Holy Communion	Linda

Readings

[Psalm 98](#)
[Hebrews 3:1-4](#)
[John 1:1-14](#)

Thursday 25th December

Probus	10:00	Family Service	Scott
St Erme	9:30	Holy Communion	Caroline
St Crida's	11:00	Parish Communion	Pat
Ladock	11:00	Holy Communion	Linda
St Michael's & Holy Trinity	10:00	Holy Communion	Linda

Readings

[Psalm 97](#)
[Titus 3:4-7](#)
[Luke 2:1-20](#)

Next week's services

Sunday 28th December
The Holy Innocents

St Ladoca's	10:00	Together @ 10	Pat
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Readings next week

[Jeremiah 31:15-17](#)

[Psalm 124](#)

[Matthew 2:13-18](#)

Home Groups

Our midweek home groups are a real blessing to be part of, a place where we share life, faith, and friendship. It's often the first to hear when someone needs prayer or has good news to share.

We hope these groups will continue to grow and welcome new members as we journey together in faith.

For details about the different midweek home groups you can join, please contact the home group leaders.

Grampound with Creed meets on Thursday evenings (weekly) with William & Ruth Trinnick (various locations)

Probus meets on Tuesday evenings (fortnightly) with Scott and Sue Hall

Probus will be meeting Thursday evenings (fortnightly) with Liz and Chris Marshman. Please contact Liz on 07525 456434.

Tresillian - We are hoping to begin a daytime group in Tresillian, more news to follow, but if you would like to offer your home please let [Rev. Caroline](#) know.

Children & Young People's Groups

Probus - Little Lights: Thursday 8th January, 9:30am - 11:30am

Benefice notices

Steve Dalton's Funeral

Steve's funeral will be held on Tuesday 23rd December, 10.30am at Probus church.

[Read more](#)

Christmas Services @ Probus Church

- Tuesday 23rd December, 6.00pm - **Carols on the Cobble**
- Wednesday 24th December, 6.00pm - **Stories by the Christmas Tree**
- Wednesday 24th December, 11.30pm - **Midnight Service**
- Thursday 25th December, 10.00am - **All Age Christmas Worship**

Will Keating and True Foxes @ Probus

[Read more](#)

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