

## Notices and Forthcoming Events

- The **St Mary's 100 Club** are very grateful for your generous support this year, and it's almost time to renew your membership for 2026, if you would like to renew or buy a number for this year then please contact Liz Henderson [e.j.henderson@outlook.com](mailto:e.j.henderson@outlook.com) or Angela Inger [angelamaryinger@btinternet.com](mailto:angelamaryinger@btinternet.com)
- **Gift Services** –St Mary's and Christchurch are this Sunday 7th December; Holy Trinity on 14th December; Unwrapped toys and toiletries will be gratefully received and handed to Wade House Highbridge so that families needing emergency housing can give Christmas presents.
- **Wedmore Living Advent Calendar** continues through this festive season. Look out for maps and information about the children's trail in St Mary's and Village shops. This year the bellringers are hosting the St Mary's porch window, being opened on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December.
- **Wedmore by Lamplight** is on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> of December, the ever popular crib service and carols round the tree outside begin the evening at 5.15pm.
- Theale **Carols in the Orchard** returns on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm. All welcome.
- **St Mary's Seekers** is not on this weekend, it will be back on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January.
- Thank you to everyone who supported the **St Mary's Advent Fair**. £950 was raised for church funds.
- The much-loved **Blackford Community Carols** are to be held in Holy Trinity at 6.30pm on 15th December. Carols will be sung in the church by the Blackford Singers. As in previous years a full range of refreshments, mince pies and nibbles will be available.
- On Sunday 21st December at St Mary's in the morning, Claire Gelder will be leading a '**Quiet Christmas**' service – with music, readings and meditation.

**The Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore**  
**SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025 Advent 2**

We thank God for the forerunner, John the Baptist.  
 We pray for: those who have a prophetic voice in the church today;  
     for our keeping of Advent;  
     for the work of the Cheddar Valley Foodbank;  
     for those scarred and held back by poverty;  
     for those who sleep rough or have no home;  
     for the work of the Children's Society;  
     for the work of Wade House and families who need emergency housing;  
     for Edward and Ella as they begin their married life together;  
     for the lonely and isolated in our communities.  
     for the work of local social services supporting the vulnerable and needy;  
 The Sick: from our community –Michael (Red) Redman, Claire Clement, John  
     Horne, Jean Winter, Philip Stott, Thomas Hole, Jane Wright, Iris Rowlett  
     and others for whom we have been asked to pray - Jamie Trotham, Anne  
     Dyer, Ruth Dyer, and Elizabeth Nicholls.  
 RIP: Reverend Alistair Forster (Axbridge)

**What's On This Week?**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December: Advent 2**

Holy Trinity	9.00am	Parish Communion	Preb Richard Neill
St Mary's	10.30am	Café Church and Gift Service	Preb Richard Neill
Christchurch	11.00am	Parish Communion and Gift Service	Revd Tony Connell
Allerton Church	4.00pm	Christingle Service	Preb Richard Neill

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

St Mary's	9.00am	Little Lambs Toddler Group
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**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

St Mary's	9.45am	Midweek Communion
Blackford Village Hall	2.00pm	Blackford Café Christmas Party
St Mary's	5.15pm	Crib Service and Wedmore by Lamplight

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Bodley Orchard	6.00pm	Carols in the Orchard
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**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Holy Trinity	10.00am	Blackford Churchyard Working Group
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**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Advent 3**

Allerton Church	9.00am	Parish Communion	Revd Joy Hawes
Holy Trinity	9.00am	Sunday Breakfast and Christingle	Preb Richard Neill
St Mary's	10.30am	Parish Communion	Preb Richard Neill
Christchurch	11.00am	Parish Communion	Revd Joy Hawes
St Mary's	6.00pm	Start the Week	Claire Gelder

## COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power  
and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and  
wickedness we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy may  
speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

## OLD TESTAMENT

### ISAIAH 11.1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of  
Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his  
roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the  
Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or  
decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the  
poor, and decide with equity for the meek  
of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his  
mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill  
the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his  
waist, and faithfulness the belt around his  
loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling  
together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole  
of the asp, and the weaned child shall put  
its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my  
holy mountain; for the earth will be full of  
the knowledge of the Lord

as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as  
a signal to the peoples; the nations shall  
inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be  
glorious.

## PSALM 72.1–7,18,19\*

1 Give the king your judgements, O  
God, ♦

and your righteousness to the son of a  
king.

2 Then shall he judge your people  
righteously ♦

and your poor with justice.

3 May the mountains bring forth peace, ♦  
and the little hills righteousness for the  
people.

4 May he defend the poor among the  
people, ♦

deliver the children of the needy and  
crush the oppressor.

5 May he live as long as the sun and  
moon endure, ♦

from one generation to another.

6 May he come down like rain upon the  
mown grass, ♦

like the showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall righteousness  
flourish, ♦

and abundance of peace

till the moon shall be no more.

18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of  
Israel, ♦

who alone does wonderful things.

19 And blessed be his glorious name for  
ever. ♦

May all the earth be filled with his  
glory.

Amen. Amen.

## EPISTLE

### ROMANS 15.4-13

For whatever was written in former days  
was written for our instruction, so that by  
steadfastness and by the encouragement  
of the scriptures we might have hope.

May the God of steadfastness and  
encouragement grant you to live in  
harmony with one another, in accordance

with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope. 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **GOSPEL**

### **MATTHEW 3.1-12**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." ' Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for

baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume 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.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

## **POST COMMUNION**

Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the world  
and will send him again to be our judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the humility and purity of his first  
coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Next Week's Readings:**

Isaiah 35.1-10; Psalm 146.4-10; James  
5.7-10; Matthew 11.2-11

Daily Readings: Matthew 14.1-12;  
Matthew 14.13-end; Matthew 15.1-20;  
Matthew 15.21-28; Matthew 15.29-end;  
Matthew 16.1-12

Psalm 10