

The Benefice Bulletin

7th December 2025 – Second Sunday of Advent

The Vicarage, Church Lane, Barton under Needwood DE13 8HU



Please take this bulletin home with you

Here for the first time? Relax. Please make yourself at home and please sit where you feel comfortable. Those who greeted you, our wardens, or the clergy will answer any practical questions that you may have. Posture notes on the service sheet and verbal instructions are intended for those who can comfortably follow them. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us.

Services this week

Sunday 7th December

09:00 Holy Communion

St Mary's, Dunstall

10:30 Holy Communion

St James', Barton

10:30 Holy Communion

St Michael's, Tatenhill

17:00 Christingle

St James', Barton

Wednesday 10th December

09:15 WoW Wednesday

including Informal Worship at 10:00

St James', Barton

11:00 Funeral of Ken Riddell

St Michael's, Tatenhill

Thursday 11th December

09:15 WoW Thursday

including Informal Worship at 10:00

Tatenhill Village Hall

14:00 Funeral of

Chris Craddock-Forrett

St James', Barton

Readings and Prayers for Second Sunday of Advent

Readings

Psalm 72

Old Testament Isaiah 11.1-10

New Testament Romans 15.4-13

Gospel Matthew 3.1-12

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 our God. Amen

Post Communion Prayer

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. Amen

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St James'	Ray Holder ☎01283 327814	✉rayholder2006@gmail.com
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St Michael's	Phil & Emma Coleman ☎01283 538983	✉stmtatenhill@gmail.com

Isaiah 11.1-10

11 A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. **2** 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. **3** 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; **4** 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. **5** Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. **6** 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. **7** The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. **8** The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. **9** 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. **10** 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.

Matthew 3.1-12

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, **2** 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' **3** 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."' **4** Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5** Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, **6** and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **7** 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? **8** Bear fruit worthy of repentance. **9** 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. **10** 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. **11** 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. **12** 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.'

For your prayers

The World: We pray for His Majesty King Charles and Queen Camilla, and the wider Royal Family. We pray for all areas of the world where there are conflicts, poverty, drought, disaster, terrorism, and humanitarian crisis.

The Anglican Communion: The Church of Bangladesh

Our Diocese: We pray for Bishops Michael and Matthew and Archdeacon Megan

Our Deanery: Along with our deanery, we pray for all those who minister, worship and live in the parish of Burton: St Chad's.

Our Benefice: We pray for those who live and work on Mill Lane, Mill Crescent, Hardy Close and Sandiway in Barton, St Mary's Church and Church Cottages in Dunstall and Staff and Pupils at John Taylor Free School in Tatenhill. May God be with all those who live and work in these places as they go about their daily lives this week.

Those who are not well: Mike S, Heather S, Lesley S-D, Doreen, Chris, Enid, Shirley, Phillipa, Tim S, Stephen, Sara, John G, Peter, Brian, Rosemarie.

Those who have died: Brenda Backhouse, Brian Hall, Evan Bloxham, Ray George, Christopher Craddock-Forrett, Ken Riddell, Mick Malpass. We pray for all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

In Benefice News...

- St James' **Church Family Christmas Lunch** will be held on Sunday 14th December, following the service. Please sign up at the back of church by Sunday 7th December if you wish to join us for Christmas Lunch.
- Our **Christingle Service** will be held on Sunday 7th December. All are welcome to join us at this lovely service.
- **Volunteers** are needed to help decorate the St James' Christmas Tree and to make Christingles on Saturday 6th December at 10:00am. Please let Ray, Beth or Jill know if you can help or just turn up!
- Rev Andy is back with **Beer and Carols** from next Friday evening. Do try and catch one of these wonderful evenings during December if you can. They really are an enjoyable evening! This coming week you can find him at The Horseshoe in Tatenhill and Holland Sports Club in Barton.
- Do check out the **Future Diary Dates** for everything that is coming up this next week and please do take your bulletin home with you! There is lots going on in the Benefice.

If you would like a home visit from the Ministry or Pastoral Visiting Team, please contact the Benefice Office on 01283 712359 to arrange a time.

Diary Dates for the Week Ahead

Monday 8th December

18:00 Advent Time and Space
St James', Barton

Tuesday 9th December

Wednesday 10th December

09:15 WoW Wednesday
St James', Barton

11:00 Funeral of Ken Riddell
St Michael's, Tatenhill

Thursday 11th December

09:15 WoW Thursday
Tatenhill Village Hall

14:00 Rangemore PCC
All Saints, Rangemore

14:00 Funeral of Chris Craddock-Forrett
St James', Barton

Friday 12th December

18:00 Music Group Rehearsal
St James', Barton

20:00 Beer and Carols
The Horseshoe, Tatenhill

Saturday 13th December

18:00 Beer and Carols
Holland Sports Club

Sunday 14th December

09:00 Holy Communion
St Michael's, Tatenhill

10:30 Second Sunday Service
St James', Barton

12:30 St James' Church Family Lunch
St James' Church Hall

17:00 Carols by Candlelight
St Mary's, Dunstall

Future Dates

Monday 15th December

10:00 Funeral of Mick Malpass
Bretby Crematorium

18:00 Advent Time and Space
St James', Barton

Tuesday 16th December

10:00 & 11:00 Thomas Russell Junior
School Christmas Service
St James', Barton

Friday 19th December

18:00 Carols by tractor-light
Rangemore

20:00 Beer and Carols
The Royal Oak, Barton

Saturday 20th December

10:30 Churches Together
Carol Singing

Outside The Middle Bell, Barton

18:00 Carols by tractor-light
Tatenhill

Sunday 21st December

16:30 Nine Lessons and Carols
St James', Barton

20:00 Beer and Carols
The Middle Bell, Barton

Monday 22nd December

18:00 Advent Time and Space
St James', Barton

Tuesday 23rd December

20:00 Beer and Carols
The Shoulder, Barton

Hello All,

Here we are at the 2nd Sunday of Advent and our preparation for Christmas continues. In both our readings today, God speaks through prophets about roots and fruits. Through John The Baptist, God calls us to bear fruit worthy of repentance because if not the tree which does not bear fruit will be cut down at the roots. In the Isaiah reading we have a shoot and a branch which springs forth from the root of Jesse and through this branch: the messiah, redemption and peace is to be the fruit. Two very different images but images which both show that Messiah will have the job of Judgement. John warns us that it's not our status (sons of Abraham) that will save us but the fruit we produce! As we prepare for Christmas what fruit do we produce, is it good fruit and is it to the glory of God??



Yours in Christ, Rev Andy +