

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 or Angela Inger angelamaryinger@btinternet.com
- **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 15th December.
- 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.
- Next Sunday sees **carol services** in Christchurch at 11am, St Mary's at 6pm and Allerton 6.30pm. Why not invite a friend or neighbour to join you at one of these wonderful services?
- 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.
- **Bishop Michael** is asking that 2026 sees a special emphasis on prayer across the diocese. He introduces the theme on this video clip.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpozN-sXZaQ>
- Wheel and a Prayer – Apologies but there will be no Wheel and a Prayer this week.
- Any families and children who would like to help prepare the Christingles, we will be meeting on Monday 22nd December at 11am in St Mary's Lady Chapel and there will be a rehearsal for the children afterwards.
- Across all our services on **Christmas Day** (including midnight mass) we will be taking a **retiring collection** for the work of CRISIS, supporting the homeless.

The Benefice of the Isle of Wedmore
SUNDAY 14th December 2025 Advent 3

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 those who are lonely and isolated in our communities;
that global decision makers and we ourselves take action to preserve the integrity of God's creation;
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 those who serve in parliament – for wisdom and humility;
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, 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 14th 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

Monday 15th December

Holy Trinity	6.30pm	Blackford Carols
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Tuesday 16th December

St Mary's	9.00am	Little Lambs Toddler Group
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Wednesday 17th December

St Mary's	9.45am	Midweek Communion
St Mary's	10.30am	WFSA Rehearsal
The Vicarage	7.30pm	Home Group

Thursday 18th December

Holy Trinity	All day	Hugh Sexeys Carol Service
St Mary's	6.00pm	Wedmore First School Carol Concert

Sunday 21st December: Advent 4

St Mary's	8.00am	BCP Holy Communion	Preb Richard Neill
Allerton Church	9.00am	Nativity play and Family Service	Revd Joy Hawes
Holy Trinity	9.00am	Parish Communion	Revd Tony Connell
St Mary's	10.30am	'Quiet Christmas'	Claire Gelder
Christchurch	11.00am	Carol Service	Preb Richard Neill
Allerton Church	6.30pm	Carol Service	Revd Joy Hawes
St Mary's	6.00pm	Carol Service	Preb Richard Neill

COLLECT

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare
the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT

ISAIAH 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

PSALM 146.4-10

4 Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, •
 whose hope is in the Lord their God;
5 Who made heaven and earth,
 the sea and all that is in them; •
 who keeps his promise for ever;
6 Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong •
 and bread to those who hunger.
7 The Lord looses those that are bound; •
 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
8 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; •
 the Lord loves the righteous;
9 The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;
 he upholds the orphan and widow;
•
 but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.
10 The Lord shall reign for ever, •
 your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Alleluia

EPISTLE JAMES 5.7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

GOSPEL MATTHEW 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go

out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.” Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

POST COMMUNION

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Next Week's Readings:
Isaiah 7.10-16; Psalm 80.1-8,18-20;
Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-end

Daily Readings: Matthew 16.13-end;
Matthew 17.1-13; Matthew 17.14-21;
Matthew 17.22-end; Matthew 18.1-20;
Matthew 18.21-end

Psalm 15