

The Parish of Mill End and Heronsgate with West Hyde

Second Sunday of Advent: 7th December 2025

Welcome!

Hearing Loop - A hearing loop system is installed at St Thomas' and St Peter's Churches, please set your hearing aid to the 'T' setting. Large Print Service Booklets & pewsheets are also available – please ask the sidesperson if you would prefer one.

Gluten Free Wafers - Please let a sidesperson know if you require a Gluten Free communion wafer before the start of the service.

ENTRANCE HYMN: Ancient & Modern (A&M) 160

ADVENT WREATH:

We have this Advent Ring to remind us of the coming of Jesus, the light of the world.

All sing: The holly and the ivy
Are dancing in a ring,
Round the purple advent candles
And the white and shining King.

We light this candle to help us think of God's greatest promise, first told by the prophets.

All sing: O two is for the prophets
And for the light they bring.
They are candles in the darkness,
All alight for Christ the King.

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. **Amen**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 11:1-10*

¹A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The 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. ³His 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; ⁴but 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. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The 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.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They 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.

¹⁰On 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.

This is the word of the Lord

GRADUAL HYMN:

**These are the days of Elijah,
declaring the Word of the Lord;
And these are the days of Your
servant, Moses
Righteousness being restored
And though these are days of great
trials**

**Of famine and darkness and sword,
Still we are the voice in the desert
crying,**

‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

***Behold he comes riding on the
clouds***

***Shining like the sun at the trumpet
call;***

***Lift your voice, it's the year of
Jubilee,
Out of Zion's hill salvation comes.***

**These are the days of Ezekiel,
The dry bones becoming as flesh;
And these are the days of Your
servant David,**

Rebuilding a temple of praise.

**And these are the days of the
harvest,**

**The fields are as white in the world,
And we are the lab'ers in Your
vineyard,**

Declaring the Word of the Lord.

Behold

GRADUAL HYMN 2: A&M 27

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 3:1-12*

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ³This 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.”’

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But 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? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do 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. ¹⁰Even 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. ¹¹I 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. ¹²His 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.’

OFFERTORY HYMN: A&M 42

COMMUNION HYMN: A&M 53

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**

RECESSIONAL HYMN: A&M 483

Diary for this week:

Mon 8th December

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8.00pm Symeons meet in the Parish Hall

Tue 9th December

9.30-11am St Peter's Toddlers meet in the Parish Hall

7.30-9pm Art in Advent in the Parish Hall

Wed 10th December

9.30am Said Eucharist at St Peter's

12.30pm Why Group lunch & bible study in the Parish Hall

Sun 14th December

Third Sunday of Advent

9.30am Said Eucharist at St Thomas'

9.30am Healing Eucharist at St John's

11.00am Christingle Parade Eucharist at St Peter's.

All items for inclusion in the weekly pewsheet must be forwarded to the parish office by Thursday morning at the latest.



Advent Evenings – join Mark for mulled wine, mince pies and a discussion about the meaning of Advent, seen through the eyes of works of Art. Two evenings in the Parish Hall - come to either or both! Tuesdays 2nd and 9th December, 7.30-9pm. See you there!

Junior Church - the next meeting will be Sunday 7th December, during the 11am All Age & Band Service at St Peter's; please invite any families with children to join us.

Salvation Army Christmas Toy Collection – we are once again taking part in the 'Be a Star' Christmas toy campaign collecting new toys for children & teens. Our Toy collection services will be on Sunday 7th December at St Thomas' & St Peter's Churches. Let this be another bumper year of donations. More details of what to give on the flyers in church.

The Why? Group – We meet fortnightly on a Wednesday, 12.30pm for a simple lunch, bible study and discussion. Our next meeting will be Wed 10th December. Enquiries via the Parish Office. All welcome, always



Symeons Christmas Party – Monday 16th December, 8.15pm onwards. Join us for fun and games plus Christmas buffet. All most welcome

Carols and Cakes – Sing some favourite carols, accompanied by Chorleywood Music String Ensemble, hear the Christmas Story whilst enjoying afternoon tea and cake. Sunday 21st December, 2.30pm at St Thomas', West Hyde.

Come and sing with the choir this Christmas! We are currently planning this year's Christmas music and are looking for extra singers for the carol service on Christmas Eve at 6pm. Rehearsals will be on Thursdays in December at 8pm (4th, 11th, 18th) and at 4.30pm before the 6pm service. Please talk to/email Richard:

millendmusic@gmail.com

Parish Christmas Quiz – its back! Relax after your Christmas lunch with a quiz that the whole family can enjoy. You may win a bottle of Champagne (not Prosecco!), and you have until Monday 19th January to find any missing answers. **Money raised goes towards the whole parish** and we hope that you will buy a few and send to family and friends who like quizzes. Copies, £5 each available from the Parish Office, St Thomas', St John's and George Hart at St Peter's.

Snowdrop Garden – Possibly for the Last Time: The Bishop of St Albans' Garden will open for what may be **the final time** this February, with thousands of snowdrops and early bulbs in bloom. All proceeds support the **Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust**.

Dates: 14 & 15 Feb; 21 & 22 Feb; **Time:** 2–4pm; **Location:** Abbey Gate House, Abbey Mill Lane, AL3 4HD; **Entry:** £5 per adult. A warm invitation to enjoy the garden's early spring beauty and help care for our historic churches.

Thank you – Michelle Barrett would like to thank everyone for all the love, prayers and kind thoughts over the past year. She is now cancer free and on the road to recovery.

Prayers:.

For the **sick at home or in hospital**, especially those on our sick list – *David Gaspar, Nigel Bunce, Raymond Williamson, Sylvia Ball, Michael Ansell, Val Fear, Alison Sealy, Rose Fulker, Brooke Cornwell, Andrew Case, Anne Peat, Oliver Talbot.*

For the **repose of the souls of:** *Marlene Tweedy and those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Dennis Maizey, Albert Rabbitts, Don Muggeridge, Iris Ingamells, Derek Bignell, Beatrice Cobb, Douglas Matthews, Bryan Wood, Clarice Parkin, Dorothy Dryden.*

Please let us know if anyone is sick, in hospital, bereaved or in need of a visit: Mark Harris, vicar marknzharris@gmail.com or Elaine, Parish Office ☎01923 772785, office.parish@btinternet.com (office open – Mon-Fri 9am-12pm) Web site: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/benefice/32-180BX/>

Do You Need Help? If you need help of any sort, no matter how small, please contact your Pastoral Care co-ordinators and they will put you in touch with someone who will do what they can to help you.

St. Peter's: Dianne Harris 01923 283600(h) 07887 387222(m)

dianneharris@live.co.uk

St. Thomas's: Elizabeth Woods 01923 462618(h) 07752 416434(m)

elizabethannwoods37@gmail.com