

## **St Julian's Church, Benniworth**



### **Service with Holy Communion 2nd Sunday of Advent**

**Scripture & Notices, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**PLEASE TAKE THIS NOTICE SHEET WITH YOU  
AFTER THE SERVICE**

Prayer for the week: Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of separation from you to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*"While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart."*

Francis of Assisi

## **The Word**

Each week, we share Scripture from the Lectionary. The service leader may choose not to use all of this Scripture in the service itself, so be guided by them. But, please take this notice sheet with you and (re)read the Scripture during the week, and the chapters around it for context.

### **Psalm 72.1–7, 18–19**

<sup>1</sup> Give the king your judgements, O God, and your righteousness to the son of a king.

<sup>2</sup> Then shall he judge your people righteously and your poor with justice.

<sup>3</sup> May the mountains bring forth peace, and the little hills righteousness for the people.

<sup>4</sup> May he defend the poor among the people, deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup> May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, like the showers that water the earth.

<sup>7</sup> In his time shall righteousness flourish, and abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

<sup>18</sup> Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wonderful things.

<sup>19</sup> And blessed be his glorious name for ever. May all the earth be filled with his glory.

Amen.

## Reading - Old Testament - Isaiah 11.1–10

- <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> 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;
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- <sup>6</sup> 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.
- <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

### **Reading - New Testament – Romans 15.4-13**

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup> 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, <sup>9</sup>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’;

<sup>10</sup>and again he says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;

<sup>11</sup>and again,

‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him’;

<sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says,

‘The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

<sup>13</sup> 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.



### **'Between Sundays'**

In the New Year, we will be running an 8-week course produced by the Bible Society, called **The Bible Course**. The course is accessible for people new to Christianity, ideal as a follow-on from courses like Alpha or for mature Christians wanting to increase their understanding of the Bible or help others to read the Bible more productively. More details of the course can be found here: [www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course). Please let Neil Walker know on 07771 861202 if you are interested.

## The Gospel

### Matthew 3.1-12

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>3</sup> 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."

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> 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? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> '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. <sup>12</sup> 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.'

## **Oh, when the saints... 6th December – St Nicholas**

One account of how Father Christmas began tells of a man named Nicholas who was born in the third century in the Greek village of Patara, on what is today the southern coast of Turkey. His family were both devout and wealthy, and when his parents died in an epidemic, Nicholas decided to use his inheritance to help people. He gave to the needy, the sick, the suffering. He dedicated his whole life to God's service, and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. As a bishop in later life, he joined other bishops and priests in prison under the emperor Diocletian's fierce persecution of Christians across the Roman Empire.

Finally released, Nicholas was all the more determined to shed abroad the news of God's love. He did so by giving. One story of his generosity explains why we hang Christmas stockings over our mantelpieces today. There was a poor family with three daughters who needed dowries if they were to marry, and not be sold into slavery. Nicholas heard of their plight, and tossed three bags of gold into their home through an open window – thus saving the girls from a life of misery.

The bags of gold landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. Hence the custom of children hanging out stockings – in the hope of attracting presents of their own from St Nicholas – on Christmas Eve. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols of St Nicholas.

The example of St Nicholas has never been forgotten – in bygone years boys in Germany and Poland would dress up as bishops on 6th December, and beg alms for the poor. In the Netherlands and Belgium 'St Nicholas' would arrive on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. To this day, 6th December is still the main day for gift-giving and merry-making in much of Europe. Many feel that simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.

## Notices

Please join us for refreshments after the service.

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Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Carols by Candlelight – 7pm  
All Saints' Church, Goulceby

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Wed. 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. – Advent gathering, "Journeying with the Magi" –  
7pm  
Honeypot Cottage, Mill Lane, Burgh on Bain

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Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Service – 7pm  
St Julian's Church, Benniworth

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Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Morning Praise – 10am  
St Helen's Church, Burgh on Bain

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The Ministry Team is setting up a **Pastoral Care** team to support our communities. If you feel you have a heart for this, please contact Neil Walker on 07771 861202 and more information will be provided.

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Weekly **Compline** service by Zoom, led by our Rural Dean, Revd Mark, most Wednesdays, 6:30pm to 7pm latest. Link on the Group web site.

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The Parish **Prayer Circle** exists to meet some of the prayer needs of the community. You can join the Prayer Circle or you can make a request for prayer (confidential within the Prayer Circle) by contacting Neil Walker on 07771 861202)

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Service leader: Revd. Pam Fraser  
Churchwardens (Acting): Bella Campbell, Gillian Stewart  
Organist: Kathy Brayshaw

 Asterby Group website: [www.asterbygroup.org](http://www.asterbygroup.org)

 [www.facebook.com/groups/asterbygroup](https://www.facebook.com/groups/asterbygroup)