

# The Greenway Benefice Sunday Sheet

Holy Trinity Badgeworth, St Paul's Shurdington, and St Mary's Witcombe with Bentham

*(Sunday services, readings and prayers are on this sheet, please look in the Three in One\* for other news and notices)*

**Sunday 14th December 2025**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**



## Today's Services

8.00am	St Mary's	BCP Holy Communion
9:30am	St Paul's	Sunday Worship
11.00am	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
11.00am	St Mary's	All-age worship
6.00pm	Holy Trinity	Carols by Candlelight

### Collect

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom  
of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## Lectionary Readings

### Isaiah 35.1-10

#### The Return of the Redeemed to Zion

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> 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.'

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup> 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;

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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: 3-10

<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in princes,  
in human beings, who cannot save.  
<sup>4</sup> When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;  
on that very day their plans come to nothing.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

<sup>6</sup> He is the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them—  
he remains faithful forever.

<sup>7</sup> He upholds the cause of the oppressed  
and gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets prisoners free,

<sup>8</sup> the Lord gives sight to the blind,  
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord watches over the foreigner  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,  
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord reigns forever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord.

### James 5.7-10

#### Patience in Suffering

<sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

## Gospel Reading

### Matthew 11.2-11

#### Messengers from John the Baptist

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

#### Jesus Praises John the Baptist

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? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>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."

<sup>11</sup>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.

## This week's prayers

*Shared from the Lectionary app. Material subject to copyright. Please visit the About this App page for further information.*

Please remember in your prayers:

- Those living in Bentham Lane.
- Retired clergy in the benefice: Revd Ian Gobey, Revd Rebecca Spear.
- We are also praying for the people of Ukraine and the Middle East, that they may freely live in peace.

## Shurdington Primary School

We are continuing our school links, and we pray for the staff and pupils. This term's school value is Thankfulness.

## Our Frontline Prayer

We thank you, Heavenly Father, for the gift of this community. We commend one another to you on our different frontlines.

Wherever we are, whatever we do, whoever we are, may the Holy Spirit guide us in all things so that we may do God's will in the world, in the service of Jesus Christ and with great joy.

## In Church next week



### Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December

9.00pm St Mary's Compline

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

9.30am	St Paul's	Holy Communion
11.00am	Holy Trinity	BCP Morning Prayer
11.00am	St Mary's	Holy Communion
6.00pm	St Paul's	Carol by candlelight
6.00pm	St Mary's	Carol by candlelight

***\*Our Three in One magazine is available in churches, can be delivered to your door, and is in the News and Notices section of our [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) pages (type any Parish name into the search bar to find us)***

## ECO tip for December

**Celebrate a simpler and greener Christmas.** As Advent begins, let us turn our gaze to the true meaning of Christmas - God with us, Emmanuel. Consider: non-physical gifts (time, vouchers) ; sustainably produced gifts; recycled or reusable wrapping ; reduce food waste; spending time in nature to appreciate creation.

Find more ideas at

<https://arocha.org.uk/journeying-towards-a-zero-waste-christmas/>