



## Mid-Wyedean Churches

serving Coleford, Clearwell,  
Newland, Redbrook, Staunton  
and surrounding communities

Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup>  
3rd Sunday of Advent

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Page  
Edition

### BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 35.1-10

Psalms 146.4-10

James 5.7-10

Matthew 11.2-11

### PRAYER FOR THIS SUNDAY

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. Amen

### REFLECTIONS.....REV. ROBERT SIMPSON

Can you imagine how difficult it must have been for John the Baptist. All his life he had lived in the wide open wilderness, preparing the way of the Lord, following in the footsteps of Elijah and Elisha and now he is confined in a small, dark cell for speaking truth to power. No wonder he is plagued by doubts. Let us remember many of our brothers and sisters in Christ who experience this same confinement, for being Christians and along with others for seeking freedom. We may not be in a physical prison but we can still be confined by our situation, whether physically or emotionally, trapped with no Hope. Let us draw strength ourselves from Jesus's reply to John's disciples. **"Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." Matthew 11:4-6 NIV.**

This is still true and is at the heart of the good news we share. In a world with so much evil and suffering, let us be those who seek to share the good news of what the Spirit is doing here in Coleford and around the world. Good news may not always be what is in the headlines but it is there if we look, and it is our responsibility to share those, 'random acts of kindness', the antidote to fear and depression.

### CONTINUED....

I came across this story from a Tunisian, who had mental health problems and was looking for healing. He continued his search by watching a film about Jesus online, and said he felt that "Christ carried a hidden love for me". He went on to read the Bible, and to his surprise, "the fear inside me began to fade. I began to feel something new, like a child who had just been born, discovering that he has a great heavenly Father. I experienced the relationship of sonship, which changed everything. I discovered the great love that casts out all fear... I received free salvation and was set free from the chains of fear."

We are surrounded by many in his situation and we can point them to Jesus, perhaps by a Christmas service invitation, a suitable card, and of course prayer and practical support. As we think about Jesus's words, let us allow the Spirit to continue to fulfil these words in our lives and therefore our community today. Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and happy new year.

Robert

### SERVICES THIS SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

**The Good Shepherd, Broadwell 10.30am**

**"Crib and Christingle" service**

**All Saints, Staunton 9:30am\***(yes, really!)

Morning Prayer followed by Craft sale and cake

**All Saints, Newland 10.30am**

Baptism for Daisy Davies

**All Saints, Newland 5pm**

'Beer and Carols'

(other refreshments are available!)

### SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER

**10:30am St.Peters, Clearwell**

Parish carols and communion

**4.00pm The Good Shepherd, Broadwell**

Carol service with Lessons and Carols

## REGULAR EVENTS + MEETINGS

### **GIVE THANKS....**

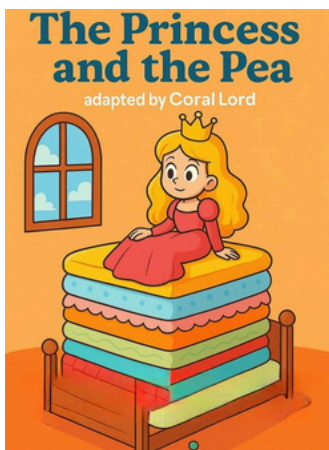
for God's unfailing love and countless blessings in this Advent season. Thank You for the gift of this world, for our families, friends, and the faith that sustains us. Thank You for sending Jesus, our greatest gift, to bring hope and salvation to a waiting world

### **PRAY....**

- for renewed engagement with baptism families, that these early encounters may spark an amazing adventure with Jesus Christ.
- **for all who nurture under-5s and their families, particularly at Mustard Seeds**, but also across the wider community.
- for those who are sick or sad in our parish: Naomi & her baby son Percy- awaiting a heart operation, please pray he stays infection free, and can take up the chance to have his operation before Christmas; Sue R. and the inspiration she gives to others Philip & his mum Lois- for his operation to take place soon  
Jackie  
Dean and family  
Elijah and family.

Please let me or Sarah know of any people or situations who need to be added to (or taken off!) the prayer requests above.  
Many Thanks. John- midwyedeannews@gmail.com

### **LAST CHANCE FOR TICKETS!**



Get ready for giggles, mishaps, and a mountain of mattresses! **The Lydbrook Players** bring you a hilarious, high-energy panto packed with outrageous characters, catchy tunes, and one very tiny pea

Lydbrook Memorial Hall  
11th Dec 7:30pm, 12th Dec 7:30pm      Tickets  
13th Dec 2:30pm, 14th Dec 2:30pm      Children £3  
Adults £7

**Tickets available on the door or online below**  
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/lydbrook-players/the-princess-and-the-pea/e-agezkq>

**Any enquiries, contact Nicholette at the Parish Office on Fridays 8.30-3.00 or phone 07933 935534,  
Newsletter Items should be emailed by Wed 12 Noon to John- midwyedeannews@gmail.com**



### **MUSTARD SEEDS**

Stay & Play for 0-5 years old.  
Tuesdays in term time,  
9.45-11.15am  
at Coleford Baptist Church.

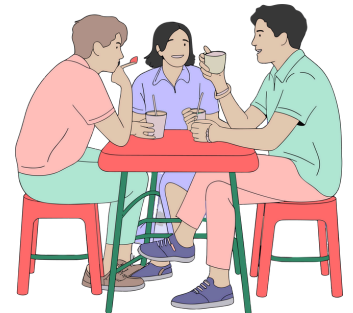
**Last session 16<sup>th</sup> December- reopens 6<sup>th</sup> January**

### **TOGETHER FOR PRAYER**

Tuesdays 12.00- 1.00 at The Vicarage.  
All Welcome

### **BROADWELL CHAT - COFFEE AND CHAT**

Usually 1st Thursday of  
the month 10.00- 12.00 at  
The Good Shepherd  
Church, Broadwell.  
Children & pets welcome.



**Next Meeting: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026**



### **CRAFT CLUB**

Crafts in Good Company  
at The Good Shepherd, Broadwell,  
Thursdays, 2- 4 pm

**last session Thurs 11th December  
restart on Thurs 8th January.**

### **REDBROOK MUSIC NIGHTS**

Family friendly food & open mic. All Welcome  
**5.30pm-7.30pm**  
**Second Saturdays**  
**Next on 13<sup>th</sup> Dec-Last Chance this year !**  
at St.Saviours, Redbrook

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Belated greetings to Alison,  
Glynis & Audrey !





### ADVENT 2025: WEEK 3



DAY	VERSE	REFLECTION QUESTION
<b>Sunday</b> Dec. 14	Psalms 105:43	The ancient Israelites experienced inexpressible joy when God brought them out of slavery in Egypt. When in your life have you experienced moments of inexpressible joy?
<b>Monday</b> Dec. 15	Isaiah 51:3	What would it be like for all of the broken-down, desolate places in your community to be made new, like a flourishing garden?
<b>Tuesday</b> Dec. 16	Luke 2:10-11	How do you think you would feel if your people had been suffering under foreign rule for centuries and you saw an angel appear, announcing that your long-awaited king had finally come?
<b>Wednesday</b> Dec. 17	John 15:10-11	What's the difference between commanding people with a motivation to control them and commanding people with a motivation to bless them and fill their lives with joy? How do Jesus' commands bring joy?
<b>Thursday</b> Dec. 18	Matthew 5:11-12	What's your first impulse when you're insulted or persecuted? Why do you think Jesus tells us to rejoice when people mistreat us for following his ways?
<b>Friday</b> Dec. 19	2 Corinthians 6:10	When we face difficult circumstances, how can we hold both joy and grief together?
<b>Saturday</b> Dec. 20	Romans 15:13	As God fills us with hope, that hope spills out onto others. What words or actions could you offer in order to give hope to others?

[For all of advent, and extra resources click here](#)

# Christmas Services and Events at Mid-Wydean Churches



## Sunday Dec 14th

10:30am Good Shepherd, Broadwell - Crib and Christingle

5:00pm All Saints Newland - Beer and Carols

## Tuesday Dec 16th

10:00am Coleford Baptist Church - Nursery Rhyme Nativity

## Thursday Dec 18th

7.00pm St.Saviours, Redbrook - Carols on the Green

## Friday Dec 19th

6.00pm All Saints, Staunton - Carols Round the Tree with pets!

## Sunday Dec 21st

10:30am St.Peters, Clearwell - Parish carols and communion

4.00pm The Good Shepherd, Broadwell - Carol service with Lessons and Carols

## Monday Dec 22nd

5:30pm Carols at the Coleford Clocktower

## Christmas Eve: Wednesday Dec 24th

6:00pm St.Saviours, Redbrook - Family Friendly Christmas Communion

11:30pm All Saints, Newland - 'Midnight Mass'

11:30pm The Good Shepherd, Broadwell - 'Midnight Mass'

## Christmas Day: Thursday Dec 25th

9:30am All Saints Staunton - Christmas Communion (by extension)

10:30am All Saints, Newland - Christmas Communion

10:30am The Good Shepherd, Broadwell - Christmas Communion

## Sunday Dec 28th

10:30am All Saints Newland - Parish Communion