

The Parishes of Adbaston, Gnosall, Knightley & High Offley, Moreton and Norbury

Sunday 7th December (Second Sunday of Advent)

We dream God's dream, of a world at peace, where enemies are reconciled, and children play in safety; where the poor and powerless find justice.

**Come Lord Jesus! Open our lives to the Peace which you bring;
let us turn to you and get ready!**

We remember God's promise of a Ruler of Peace, filled with the Spirit of God, of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and might, of justice and faithfulness.

**Come Lord Jesus! Open our lives to the Peace which you bring;
let us turn to you and get ready!**

In this season of prophecy, promise, and preparation, we come to be renewed and refreshed. Come! Let us worship our God - the One who brings all things to fulfilment.

Amen

CONFESSION

A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.' Let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

Holy and loving God, we have dwelt in darkness and preferred it to the light:

Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again

We have been proud of our accomplishments and despaired over our shortcomings:

Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again

We have ignored the mighty things you have done and doubted your mercy:

Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again

We have forgotten to trust in the promises you have given us:

Open a path in the wilderness of our lives that we might find our way to you again

Smooth down the mountains of our pride and lift up the valleys of our doubts. Refine us and prepare us once again for life in your kingdom. **Amen**

ABSOLUTION

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes Again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

Amen

First Reading: Romans 15: 4-13

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. May the

God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 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, 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’;
and again he says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;
and again,

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

‘The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.’

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.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew:
Glory to you O Lord

Matthew 3: 1-12

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

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

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? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 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. 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.

‘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. 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.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you O Christ

REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God:

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

We bring our prayers using the response: Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen

Peace

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope; and the peace of the Lord be always with you: **and also with you.**

Offering Prayer

Heavenly Father, your love for us is beyond measure and you provide for our every need.

Help us to give generously in return. Take our talents, our energy and our joy and use us to share your love. Magnify the gifts we offer you to spread your peace in the world.

Amen

Act of Spiritual Communion

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself and keep me in your care. Amen.

O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord and heavenly Father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching you to grant, that by the merits and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all your whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

Amen

Blessing

The Lord open your eyes to His coming, open your ears to His voice, open your hearts to His love; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

Notices

This Week's Services- 7th December

Gnosall 8am Holy Communion
10am Benefice Zoom Worship

Next Week's Service- 14th December

Gnosall 8am Holy Communion
10:30am Morning Worship
Knightley 9:30am Morning Worship
Norbury 9:30am Morning Prayer for Tree Festival
Moreton 3pm Carol Service- Hall

Coffee and Chat

Join us for Coffee and Chat 10:30-12:30 at St Lawrence Church. 1st Saturday of every month. All Welcome.

St. Peter's Church, Norbury

Christmas Tree Festival. Theme - Christmas Songs *Saturday 13th - Sunday 14th December*
10.00am - 4.00pm Entry Free (donations appreciated) Refreshments available. Everyone will be very welcome.
Please park at Church Farm.

St. Lawrence Church Flowers

We will decorate the Church for Christmas on Monday 22nd December from 9am to 11am. Please bring your own flowers and greenery. Everyone welcome. Donations for flowers may be given to Helen Air.

Thank you

Christian Food is grateful to everyone across the Gnosall Benefice who contributed to the generous harvest donations this autumn. Your generosity means that we can face the winter able to support struggling families and individuals with some confidence. Our prayers and thanks,
Cathy Lister

Saint Lawrence School has offered to do a further collection to help us with our Christmas packages. School families will be donating not just the essentials but some treats to pop into individual and family bags for the hungry in the Stafford area over Christmas. If you are attending Vespers please consider bringing along a gift for Christian Food Help –Christmas chocolates, sweets or biscuits, nice soap or other ‘luxury’ donations. We shall add them to the school contributions.

Annual Christmas Globetrotter’s Run

This Christmas, we are working again with the Gnosall Globetrotters and are looking for donations of food or toiletries for the Gnosall Globetrotters Food Bank Run Tuesday 16th December 7pm. We can pick up from your home on the night (more running for the runners) or in advance if that is not convenient. Please let me know Sarah 07792764117. Collections will be taken to the vicarage where runners will receive a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. All donations go to the House of Bread.

Eco Tip of the Month

This season, let’s reflect on the story that we wish our actions and choices to tell. Consider A Rocha UK’s blog on journeying towards a zero-waste Christmas arocha.org.uk/journeying-towards-a-zero-waste-christmas. May our hearts and our celebrations align with the simplicity and beauty of the Christmas story

Just Giving Pages

We have a Just Giving page for 3 of our churches so far. Please scan the correct QR code if you would like to donate this way. Giving via Lichfield Diocese means Gift Aid is reclaimed on behalf of the church and all donations are passed to us without any fees or commission.

Gnosall



Adbaston





Norbury

Contact Details for the Church Office.

Phone: 01785 822820 Benefice Administrator: Victoria Hainsworth

Office email: churchofficegnosall@gmail.com

Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9-12.00, Friday 9-1:00. During the Benefice Vacancy please contact Gnosall Vicarage by phone or email with enquiries related to regular services and funerals or to book weddings or baptisms. When the office is not staffed leave a message and someone will reply as soon as possible.