

The Benefice Bulletin

14th December 2025 – Third Sunday of Advent

The Vicarage, Church Lane, Barton under Needwood DE13 8HU



Please take this bulletin home with you

Here for the first time? Relax. Please make yourself at home and please sit where you feel comfortable. Those who greeted you, our wardens, or the clergy will answer any practical questions that you may have. Posture notes on the service sheet and verbal instructions are intended for those who can comfortably follow them. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us.

Services this week

Sunday 14th December

09:00 Holy Communion

St Michael's, Tatenhill

10:30 Holy Communion

St James', Barton

17:00 Carols by Candlelight

St Mary's, Dunstall

Monday 15th December

10:00 Funeral of Mick Malpass

Bretby Crematorium

Wednesday 17th December

09:15 WoW Wednesday

including Informal Worship at 10:00

St James', Barton

Thursday 18th December

09:15 WoW Thursday

including Informal Worship at 10:00

Tatenhill Village Hall

Readings and Prayers for Third Sunday of Advent

Readings

Psalm

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Old Testament

Isaiah 35.1-10

New Testament

James 5.7-10

Gospel

Matthew 11.2-11

The Collect

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

Post Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and forever. Amen

Clergy	Revd Andy Simpson ☎01283 712359	✉ vicar.bundtbenefice@outlook.com
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Churchwardens:		
St James'	Ray Holder ☎01283 327814	✉ rayholder2006@gmail.com
St Mary's	Angela Moffat ☎01283 713735	✉ rangelamoffat@icloud.com
St Michael's	Phil & Emma Coleman ☎01283 538983	✉ stmtatenhill@gmail.com

Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² 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. ³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ 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.' ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ 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; ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

James 5.7-10

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

Matthew 11.2-11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ 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. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' ⁷ 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? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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 than he.'

For your prayers

The World: We pray for His Majesty King Charles and Queen Camilla, and the wider Royal Family. We pray for all areas of the world where there are conflicts, poverty, drought, disaster, terrorism, and humanitarian crisis.

The Anglican Communion: Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

Our Diocese: We pray for Bishops Michael and Matthew and Archdeacon Megan

Our Deanery: Along with our deanery, we pray for all those who minister, worship and live in the parish of Burton: St John's, Horniglow.

Our Benefice: We pray for those who live and work on Causer Road, Sutton Crescent, Salt Drive and Keeling Drive in Barton, Dunstall Hall and Cricket Club in Dunstall and Branston Road in Tatenhill. May God be with all those who live and work in these places as they go about their daily lives this week.

Those who are not well: Mike S, Heather S, Lesley S-D, Doreen, Chris, Enid, Shirley, Phillipa, Tim S, Stephen, Sara, John G, Brian, Rosemarie, Jess.

Those who have died: Evan Bloxham, Ray George, Christopher Craddock-Forrett, Ken Riddell, Mick Malpass, Velma Hodgson, Ron Stafford, Vic Warrington, Peter Bailey. We pray for all those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

In Benefice News...

- Another busy week coming up across the Benefice - so please do have a look at the events going on!
- **Carols by Tractor-light** will take place on Friday 19th in Rangemore and Saturday 20th in Tatenhill. Why not pop along and enjoy some Christmas Carols with the community.
- **Barton and District Churches Together Carol Singing** will take place on Saturday 20th starting at 10:30am outside The Middle Bell on Main Street. Another opportunity to sing Christmas Carols this season within our communities.
- Rev Andy will be back with **Beer and Carols** at the following locations this week: Friday 19th at The Royal Oak, Sunday 21st at The Middle Bell. They are always fantastic nights so why not pop along and join in the fun!
- **Nine Lessons and Carols** will take place at St James' on Sunday 21st starting at 16:30. This traditional carol service is always a lovely one so close to Christmas.
- Do check out the **Future Diary Dates** for everything that is coming up this next week and please do take your bulletin home with you! There is lots going on in the Benefice.

If you would like a home visit from the Ministry or Pastoral Visiting Team, please contact the Benefice Office on 01283 712359 to arrange a time.

Diary Dates for the Week Ahead

Monday 15th December

10:00 Funeral of Mick Malpass
Bretby Crematorium

18:00 Advent Time and Space
St James', Barton

Tuesday 16th December

10:00 & 11:00 Thomas Russell Junior
School Christmas Service
St James', Barton

Wednesday 17th December

09:15 WoW Wednesday Christmas Party
St James', Barton

Thursday 18th December

09:15 WoW Thursday Christmas Party
Tatenhill Village Hall

Friday 19th December

18:00 Carols by tractor-light
Rangemore

20:00 Beer and Carols
The Royal Oak, Barton

Saturday 20th December

10:30 Churches Together
Carol Singing
Outside The Middle Bell, Barton

18:00 Carols by tractor-light
Tatenhill

Sunday 21st December

09:00 Lay Led Service
St Mary's, Dunstall

10:30 Lay Led Service
St James', Barton

16:30 Nine Lessons and Carols
St James', Barton

20:00 Beer and Carols
The Middle Bell, Barton

Future Dates

Monday 22nd December

18:00 Advent Time and Space
St James', Barton

Tuesday 23rd December

12:30 Funeral of Velma Hodgson
St James', Barton

20:00 Beer and Carols
The Shoulder, Barton

Wednesday 24th December

Christmas Eve

09:15 WoW Wednesday
10:30 Crib Service

16:00 Crib Service
St James', Barton

19:00 Lessons and Carols
St Michael's, Tatenhill

21:30 Bethlehem Midnight Communion
St James', Barton

Thursday 25th December

Christmas Day

09:00 Christmas Communion
St Mary's, Dunstall

10:30 Christmas Communion
St James', Barton

Sunday 28th December

10:30 Benefice Holy Communion
St James', Barton

Monday 5th January 2026

19:00 Home Group
The Vicarage, Barton

Thursday 15th January

19:30 Tatenhill PCC
Venue TBC

Hello All,

Here we are at the 3rd Sunday of Advent; Rejoice or Gaudete Sunday.

Traditionally a break from the Advent fast to look ahead to the joy to come at Christmas! I know some of you have a laugh at my expense about "joy" and how all we do should bring us joy, but I mean it! If following Jesus and serving him makes you "grumpy" then give it up! As the prophet Isaiah said about those who have God in their lives, they "... obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away!"



Yours in Christ, Rev Andy +