

What's On



Peace in our Time

When Where
7pm to 8.15pm,
on
4, 11, 18 December 2023

Where
on Zoom:
Book your place acbhteam@gmail.com

Session 1: What is Peace? What is conflict?
Session 2: Is war ever justified?
Session 3: A faithful response? Prayer

Come to one,
or come to all

Caring Hands needs the following items: Long life milk, pasta, rice, tea and tinned: vegetables, meat, tuna, tomatoes etc. Boxes are available in our churches for donations of food.

Pershore Community Cupboard Christmas Parcels Appeal Pershore Baptist Church

Currently collecting: Selection Boxes, Yule Logs, Sponge Puddings, Mince Pies, Tinned Fruit, Custard, Biscuits, Chocolates, Savoury Snacks.

**Please send items for the next Link News to
rectoryoffice@btinternet.com by Monday 11th December. Thank you.**

Link News is sent to all Church members whose email addresses we have. If you would like to forward it to a friend, please feel free to do so. If you know of someone who would like to be included in the mailing list, please ask them to contact the Parish Office.

December Link News Sunday 3rd and Sunday 10th 1st and 2nd of Advent



We're in a period of 'difficult' readings in the Bible at the moment: apocalyptic, cryptic readings that trouble and tease.

Advent begins on 3 December, a season of preparation, of active watching and waiting for the celebrations which recall the first advent of the Messiah, Jesus. Watching and waiting, preparing for the second coming of Jesus in clouds of glory to usher in the new heaven and new earth.

New heaven, new earth. Realities which feed my imagination. But before the advent of this new world of wholeness and harmony we continue with the troubling and teasing themes of death and judgement, heaven and hell through the four Sundays of Advent. It feels as though we have been touching on these already.

Parallel to, but related to these themes, is the story of the Hebrew spies sent to bring back report of the Promised Land, that land flowing with milk and honey, an earthly experiment with living the new heaven and new earth in this heaven and earth, with God's love and justice permeating all. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks in his essays on the Book of Numbers comments on the failure of ten of the twelve spies to see with eyes of faith. I was struck by his comment:

"Those with faith hearts see a world filled with danger. Those with strong hearts see the same world but it is not filled with danger. It contains risks but that does not make them dismayed." He goes on to say these words which seem to me to encapsulate the Advent atmosphere and also the feeling of our world at the moment with its wars and rumours of wars, its plagues and famines: "Faith is the courage to see the world precisely as it is while refusing to be intimidated by it."

Advent seeks to encourage our faith by reminding us of the wide arc of God's active presence in the world. God has not left us to our own devices. God is present and active in this crazy beautiful and suffering world. As we explore Advent themes we are offering three sessions on Zoom on Peace in our Time (Monday evenings, 7pm). All are welcome, whether you are of faith or not, to join in these sessions.

Yours
Rev'd Katryn

Readings and Collects

3rd December

Readings:

1 Isaiah 64 vv 1-9
Psalm 80 vv 1-8; 18-20
1 Corinthians 1 vv 3-9
Mark 13 vv 24-37

Collect:

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

10th December

Readings

Isaiah 40 vv 1-11
Psalm 85 vv 1-2; 8-13
2 Peter 3 vv 8-15a
Mark 1 vv 1-8

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.

Church Mission Society

During Advent and Christmas, we
celebrate God entering our messed
-up world in Jesus, announcing
God's Kingdom of freedom, for-
giveness and justice.

"For God did not send his Son into
the world to condemn the world,
but to save the world through
him" (John 3:17)

We pray . . .

For all in our community who are sick or in long term care:

- Adrian Nichols
- Yvonne Seward
- Peter Locksley Smith
- Jackie O'Shaughnessy
- Lynette Crabtree
- All in residential and care homes

We remember the loss of loved ones

- ♦ Laurie Croft
- ♦ Gordon Gregory
- ♦ Pat Ninkovic
- ♦ Chick (Victor) Hopkins

Those who have died recently and
those whose anniversary of death falls at
this time.

*May the souls of the faithful departed,
Through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

Diocese of Worcester—Elmley Castle, Bricklehampton & The Combertons:

We give thanks for the energy and commit-
ment of those who are the face of Christ in
their villages. Please pray that we develop
an invitational culture and nurturing wor-
ship.

We pray for the school community and give
thanks for the excellent nurture it provides.
For Headteacher Nadia
Underwood and the Open the Book Team.

Pray for our clergy to find creative ways to
fulfil governance requirements around the
Bredon Hill Group.

December Services

Sunday 3rd

9.00 am Little Comberton, Holy Communion
9.00 am Besford, Holy Communion
10.45 am Bredon, Holy Communion
10.45 am Teddington, Patronal Service
4.00 pm Eckington, Group Advent Service

Wednesday 6th

10.00 am Iona Morning Prayer, Little Comberton

Sunday 10th

9.00 am Overbury, Holy Communion
**10.45 am Little Comberton, Café Church , start at 10.15 for seasonal
refreshments followed by a service at 10.45**
10.45 am Eckington, Holy Communion
4.00 pm Bredons Norton, Carol Service
4.00pm Eckington, Carol Service

Wednesday 13th

10.00 am St Cuthbert Morning Prayer, Little Comberton

Holland House

Morning Prayer (Celtic and other) at Holland House on: Tuesdays,
Wednesdays and Fridays at 9.15 am. There will be a Eucharist at 12
noon on Wednesdays.

Weddings, funerals and baptisms

Enquiries should be made to Alison Khan, Administrative Co-ordinator,
Bredon Hill Group (tel. 07984 748 059)

Our churches are open

St Peter's, Little Comberton: daily 9 a.m. to dusk.
St Mary the Virgin, Elmley Castle: daily 9 a.m. to dusk.
St Michael & All Angels, Bricklehampton: daily 10 a.m. to dusk.
St Michael & All Angels, Great Comberton: daily 9 a.m. to dusk.