

CLAPHAM :: KEASDEN :: AUSTWICK :: ELDROTH CHURCHES WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

"A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots"

No.286. The Second Sunday of Advent, 7 December 2025

9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion

11.00 Clapham Holy Communion

11.00 Keasden Holy Communion (Revd Steve Rathbone)

A prayer at the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, God of our ancestors:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

You called the patriarchs to live by the light of faith
and to journey in the hope of your promised fulfilment.

May we be obedient to your call
and be ready and watchful to receive your Christ,
a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;
for you are our light and our salvation:

Blessed be God for ever.

Isaiah 11.1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;

4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

6 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down
together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand
as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him,
and his dwelling shall be glorious.



Matthew 3.1–12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2 ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ 3 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.”’

4 Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6 and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 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? 8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9 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. 10 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.

11 ‘I baptise 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 baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 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.’

Psalms 72.1–7, 18, 19

1 Give the king your judgements, O God,
and your righteousness to the son of a king.

2 Then shall he judge your people righteously
and your poor with justice.

3 May the mountains bring forth peace,
and the little hills righteousness for the people.

4 May he defend the poor among the people,
deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.

5 May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

6 May he come down like rain upon the mown grass,
like the showers that water the earth.

7 In his time shall righteousness flourish,
and abundance of peace:
till the moon shall be no more.

18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wonderful things.

19 And blessed be his glorious name for ever.
May all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

Prayers

With the Anglican Communion: *The Church of Bangladesh, The Most Revd Samuel Sunil Mankhin.*

Those who have died: *Ralph Court, Dave Clark, Anne Read, Ken Pearce.*

Advent Intercessions

In a beautiful but broken world, full of so much good yet so much evil, so much joy yet so much sorrow, we bring you, Lord, our prayers for others.

Where hardship has crushed the spirit,
poverty, injustice or disease having destroyed faith in the future,

Lord Jesus Christ: **may your love bring light.**

Where war and suffering scar your world,
hatred, greed and intolerance erupting into violence,

Lord Jesus Christ: **may your love bring light.**

Where disaster has brought devastation,
flood, famine, earthquake and hurricane shattering lives,

Lord Jesus Christ: **may your love bring light.**

Where hearts are closed to you and others,
doubt, fear, dogma and prejudice creating alienation,

Lord Jesus Christ: **may your love bring light.**

Come to our world, Lord, and heal its wounds,
shining in the darkness and restoring joy, faith, hope and love.

Lord Jesus Christ: **may your love bring light.**

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power
and come among us, and with great might
succour us; that whereas, through our sins
and wickedness we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to
whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen

Post Communion prayer

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first
coming, that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Hymns in today's services

7th December: The Second Sunday of Advent

Opening Hymn: 7 Hills of the North, rejoice

Gradual Hymn: 388 Jesus shall reign, where'er the sun

Hymn Before Communion: 6 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes

Closing Hymn: 3 Come, thou long-expected Jesus

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS IN OUR CHURCHES

Sunday 7th December: Second Sunday of Advent

9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion

11.00 Clapham Holy Communion

11.00 Keasden Holy Communion (Revd Steve Rathbone)

Wednesday 10th December

2.00, 6.00 Austwick School Nativity Services

Saturday 13th December

10.30 - 12.00 Keasden Christmas Coffee Morning

Sunday 14 December: Third Sunday of Advent

9.30 Austwick Shorter Holy Communion

4.00 Austwick Carol Service

7.00 Newby Chapel Clapham and Newby Joint Carol Service

Thursday 18th December

1.30 Austwick School Christingle Service

6.00 Keasden Carol Singing around Keasden: meet at church

Sunday 21 December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion

7.00 Eldroth Nativity and Carol Service

Monday 22nd December

7.00 Keasden Carols around the Crib

Tuesday 23rd December

6.30 Newby Green Community Carol Singing

24th December: Christmas Eve

3.00 Austwick Crib Service

5.00 Clapham Crib Service followed by short Holy Communion

11.30pm Austwick Midnight Holy Communion

25th December: Christmas Day

9.30 Eldroth Family Communion

11.00 Keasden Family Communion

Sunday 28 December:

The Sunday after Christmas

10.30 Austwick Benefice Churches Joint Holy Communion

Thursday 1st January 2026

Keasden New Year's Day Parish Walk

10.00 Keasden Head track end or Keasden Head Farm **10.30**

Sunday 4th January 2026: The Second Sunday of Christmas

9.30 Eldroth Holy Communion

11.00 Clapham Holy Communion

Sunday 11th January 2026: The Epiphany

9.30 Austwick Holy Communion

11.00 Keasden Holy Communion

Also each Wednesday

(except 17, 25 and 31 December)

10.30 Austwick Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)