

## News for the Pews

**Date: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**Sunday: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**



### News and Views

Christmas is coming and life is getting a bit hectic – so this will be short and sweet! My study is looking chaotic (but in an organised sort of way). There are gifts to give to all the adults and children coming to church over Christmas; the different elements (except the oranges) for Christingles x 3; wrapping paper and chocolate to play pass the parcel at the school Christmas services x 4; more chocolate than even I could eat for my “chocolate sermon” x 3; carol sheets and Advent orders of service; raffle prizes for the Christmas Tree Festival and Christmas Cheer; and a pile of flyers still to deliver – but what an opportunity to pray for each household as I walk around the village.

All this got me thinking about “preparation”. I know everyone will be getting ready for Christmas – which I hope will be a joyous celebration for everyone (even if it has to be pared back a bit this year). But Advent is about more than that. As well as preparing for Christmas, to celebrate the birth of the Christ-child, Advent is about preparing ourselves for when Jesus will return in glory for the day of judgement. It will definitely not be anything like his arrival as a helpless baby in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. It might be worth taking serious note of the bible readings over the four Sundays of Advent: no-one knows the day or the hour (not even Jesus) so we need to be prepared. [Matthew 24:36,42]

### Events for the week

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Group Council meeting at 7pm in Stockton Church

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Christingle Workshop in Priors School

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Christingle service at 6.30pm in St. Lawrence’s Church, Napton

**Looking ahead – see the attached poster for details!**

### Services next Sunday – 11<sup>th</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent:

9.00am – BCP Holy Communion at St. Peter’s, Wormleighton

10.30am – CW Holy Communion at St. Leonard’s, Priors Marston

10.30am – Morning Worship at St. Lawrence’s, Napton

10.30am – Methodist-led Holy Communion at St. Michael’s, Stockton

5.00pm – BCP Evensong at St. Mary’s, Priors Hardwick

Bible readings for the week are: Isaiah 35:1-10 and Matthew 11:2-11

### And finally

A verse from this week’s Gospel: “Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.” [Matthew 3:10]. As we are the ones who should be producing good fruit for God’s Kingdom, let us also use this prayer - the collect for the week: “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”

God bless,  
Gillian

(For more details of events and diary dates, see our website: [www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk](http://www.thebridgesgroup.org.uk) or the parish magazines)