

THE PARISH OF GREAT YARMOUTH

GREAT YARMOUTH MINSTER, ST PAUL'S, ST MARY'S

SUNDAY 6th December 2020 2nd Sunday of Advent

Services as follows: Facebook at 10am and 11am in the Minster.

Evening Prayer on Facebook / YouTube Thursday at 7pm.

Parish Office:

The Rectory, Town Wall Rd, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, NR30 1DJ

Tel: 01493 858410

office@gtyarmouthminster.org

www.gtyarmouthminster.org

2nd Sunday of Advent

Looking at my book shelves I appear to own quite a few devotional books to use in the season of Advent. Some have been really helpful and sustained me with joy through the season whereas others have been read but fell by the wayside as December wore on. I note that I have more Advent books than for the season of Lent. I wonder why?

Advent is such a beautiful season and full of anticipation as we watch and wait for the coming of Christ. There are such rich themes and powerful gospel messages and yet so often, Advent is washed away in a relentless tinsel tide. I think I may have purchased Advent devotional books to try and claim back this season, within which I perpetually feel disappointed that I have not done it justice.

At the Minster, we often lose St Nicholas around the same time! Drawn into the frantic pace of carol service and event preparation and our dedication festival gets overwhelmed. We need to think about that. Mark's gospel reminds us to prepare the path and straighten the way. The call of the Baptist is to seek to redress the balance and where the things of God have got squeezed or pushed out, we need to bring them in and place them at the centre of our lives.

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight!"

Fr Simon

NOTICES

Welcome to Bishop Graham! It is a great pleasure to welcome Bishop Graham to the Minster today where he will preside and preach at the 11am service.

Midweek Eucharist Weds 9th Dec at 10.15am at St.Mary's. 16th Dec Eucharist at St Paul's.

Minster Gift Day If you can, please respond to our Gift Day appeal. Flyers have been circulated. There is huge pressure on PCC finances and every act of generosity, no matter how big or small, is a help.

Minster Open daily from 10am-12noon for private prayer and visitors. We need helpers to keep the Minster open day by day. All volunteers are welcome, not just church members. Any offers please contact the Parish Office.

Cloths Priory School who are having class assemblies at present. We need simple, plain coloured cloths (no more than 4x4 ft) in green, red, purple and gold / white. Any offers to Parish Office.

Film Club Calling everyone who loves a Christmas film! Film club will be watching Nativity! For the second film chat night. We will be meeting in mid December on Zoom/by phone, so when you feel in the mood for a feel good festive film, why not pick up Nativity!? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_ILpFYdKj8 Helen has copies you can borrow.

Christmas Services 2020 All services are subject to change. We advise everyone to check website / Facebook and weekly bulletins for up to date information. We may need more volunteers to help steward services across the parish.

Day	Service	Place	Time
Thursday 17 th Dec	Chorister Carols	Minster	5pm
Saturday 19 th Dec	Carol Service	St Paul's	6.30pm
Sunday 20 th Dec	Carol Service	Minster	6.30pm
Monday 21 st Dec	Carol Service	St Mary's	6.30pm
Mon 21 st – Weds 23 rd	<i>Christingles to Go: Minster open for people to collect family Christingle kits. Music / lighting / crib / places to pause & reflect</i>		
Tuesday 22 nd Dec	St. Cecelia Choir	Minster	tbc
Christmas Eve	Christingle	Zoom / Minster	4pm
	Midnight Eucharist	Minster	11.30pm
Christmas Day	Christmas Service	Online	10am
	Christmas Eucharist	St Paul's	10am
	Christmas Eucharist	St Mary's	10am
	Christmas Eucharist	Minster	10am

Electoral Roll is being revised. If you are a regular member of our church and wish to be added please complete a form. A form is available in all churches or contact Parish Office.

Parish Magazine: The December magazine is out now, if you have any articles for the magazine please contact Pat Stringer, email: pat.stringer1@sky.com

PARISH PRAYER LIST If anyone wants someone prayed for, ask any of the Ministry Team or the parish office. Pray for those who are sick or in need, all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit or in need of God's loving care: Sheila, Brenda, David, Bernice, Susan. Remember before God the recently departed: Kathleen Kelly. Pray for those who work to keep our community safe and limit the spread of the virus. Pray for all staff at James Paget Hospital and for the ministry of the chaplaincy team. Pray for our church school: St Nicholas Priory School; praying especially for staff at this difficult time.

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.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather

the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

PSALM Psalm 85:1-2. 8-13 (or 85:8-13)

R Show us your mercy, O Lord.

Lord, you were gracious to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the offence of your people and covered all their sins. **R**

I will listen to what the Lord God will say, for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful, that they turn not again to folly. Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other; Truth shall spring up from the earth and righteousness look down from heaven. **R**

The Lord will indeed give all that is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness shall go before him and direct his steps in the way. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,

waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

POST COMMUNION

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.



Show us your mer-cy, O Lord.