

## THE PARISH OF GREAT YARMOUTH

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

SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

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

Evening Prayer on Facebook / YouTube Thursday at 7pm.

### Parish Office:

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### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

I cannot get to this point in Advent without having a constant inner soundtrack of Steeleye Span. Why? (you might well wonder), well, today is 'Gaudete' Sunday. And gaudete means rejoice. It was supposed to bring a little bit of respite from the quite heavy traditional themes of advent which look beyond Bethlehem, beyond Calvary, beyond today and tomorrow, themes looking towards the end times.

Now, I don't know about you, but quite a bit of this year has felt a bit 'end timey'. So having a space specifically reserved for a bit of joy is very welcome - we need every scrap of it we can get at the moment. Being joyful isn't the same as being happy, happiness depends on things outside of our control. Joy is knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing - sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, pandemic, or even death - can take that love away.

As Christians we accept that we are loved unconditionally, even during those times when God might feel far away to us,. We also accept our commission to love our neighbour as ourself. So And don't forget that you are loved. Then have a think about how can you bring joy by spreading that love around our community this advent?

Let's have an outbreak of joy - Gaudete! Rejoice!

Revd Helen Lynch (she/her)

### NOTICES

**Midweek Eucharist** Weds 16<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10.15am at St.Paul's. 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec Eucharist at St Mary's.

**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.

**Thank You** to those who have supported Gift Days across our 3 churches. Gifts are still coming in and it is still not too late to contribute via the Parish Office. Do indicate which church you are making a gift towards.

**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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_ILpFYdKj8) Helen has copies you can borrow. It's also showing live on CBBC on Monday at 6pm.

**Christmas Services 2020:** Some services are ticketed to control numbers. Tickets can be ordered via the Parish Office (staffed Mon, Wed, Fri, 0900-1200)

Day	Service	Place	Time	
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Chorister Carols	Minster	6pm	<i>Tickets required</i>
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Carol Service	St. Paul's	6.30pm	<i>Tickets required</i>
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Carol Service	Minster	6.30pm	<i>Tickets required</i>
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Carol Service	St. Mary's	6.30pm	<i>Tickets required</i>
Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> – Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Christingles to Go: Minster open for people to collect family Christingle kits. Music / lighting / crib / places to pause &amp; reflect</i>			
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	St. Cecelia Choir	Minster	7.30pm	<i>Tickets from Matthew Hardy: 07786 165690</i>
Christmas Eve	Christingle	Zoom	4pm	
	Midnight Eucharist	Minster	11.30pm	<i>Tickets required</i>
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](mailto: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, Matthew. Remember before God the recently departed Michael Garraway, Sylvia Payne, Baby Roman Pickering. Pray for those who work to keep our community safe and limit the spread of the virus. Pray for all local businesses who are finding it hard at present. Pray for our church school: St Nicholas Priory School as they near the end of term.

**COLLECT**

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
 who at your first coming sent your  
 messenger  
 to prepare your way before you:  
 grant that the ministers and stewards of  
 your mysteries  
 may likewise so prepare and make ready  
 your way  
 by turning the hearts of the disobedient to  
 the wisdom of the just,  
 that at your second coming to judge the  
 world  
 we may be found an acceptable people in  
 your sight;  
 for you are alive and reign with the Father  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 61:1-4. 8-11**

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

The servant of the LORD said: The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and

as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

**PSALM OR CANTICLE**

Either **Psalm 126**

**R** *The Lord has done great things for us.*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
 then were we like those who dream.  
 Then was our mouth filled with laughter  
 and our tongue with songs of joy. **R**

Then said they among the nations,  
 "The Lord has done great things  
 for them."

The Lord has indeed done great things  
 for us,  
 and therefore we rejoiced. **R**

Restore again our fortunes, O Lord,  
 as the river beds of the desert.  
 Those who sow in tears  
 shall reap with songs of joy.  
 Those who go out weeping, bearing  
 the seed,  
 will come back with shouts of joy,  
 bearing their sheaves with them. **R**

Or **Luke 1:46b-55**

**R** *My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of  
 the Lord;  
 My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.  
 For he has looked with favour on his lowly  
 servant;  
 from this day all generations will call me  
 blessed.  
 The Almighty has done great things  
 for me,  
 and holy is his name. **R**

He has mercy on those who fear him  
 in every generation.  
 He has shown the strength of his arm;  
 he has scattered the proud in their  
 conceit. **R**

He has cast down the mighty from  
 their thrones  
 and has lifted up the lowly.  
 He has filled the hungry with good things  
 and the rich he has sent away empty. **R**

He has come to the help of his servant,  
 Israel,  
 for he has remembered his promise  
 of mercy.  
 The promise he made to our forebears:  
 to Abraham and his children for ever. **R**

**SECOND READING**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.*

My brothers and sisters, rejoice always,  
 pray without ceasing, give thanks in all  
 circumstances; for this is the will of God  
 in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench  
 the Spirit. Do not despise the words of  
 prophets, but test everything; hold fast  
 to what is good; abstain from every form  
 of evil. May the God of peace himself  
 sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit  
 and soul and body be kept sound and  
 blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus  
 Christ. The one who calls you is faithful,  
 and he will do this.

**GOSPEL John 1:6-8. 19-28**

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

**POST COMMUNION**

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 for ever.

