

## Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Nov – Advent 1

### Worship in December

I am delighted to say we are now allowed to worship in our building again from 2nd December. Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Holy Communion will take place on **Wednesdays at 10 am** during this time when we have to follow carefully our COVID 19 risk management policy.



- ❖ **Sunday's @ 10am** - We continue to live stream services on the [church Facebook](#) page which will then be copied onto the church website for those who wish to catch up later.
- ❖ **Sunday's at 2pm** - Holy Communion using the Advent Common Worship books
- ❖ **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 6.30pm (live streamed as well)**- Candlelight Carol service
- ❖ **Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 4.30pm (online only)** – Christingle Service. Christingle making packs will be available to be collected from church and all you will need to buy are oranges. Please make a donation to the Children's Society online.
- ❖ **Christmas Eve 24<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 11.30pm (live streamed as well)** - Midnight Communion
- ❖ **Christmas Day worship @ 10am**
- ❖ **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> Dec @ 10am** - BCP service
- ❖ **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> Dec** – No Service

**All places are limited so please book** in by ringing 345 3231 before 4pm Tuesday evening for the Wed service and before 4pm Sat for the Sunday service with your name and phone number. We will only ring back if there is a problem. Please do not worry if you book but subsequently can't make it!

- Please do not come if you have any symptoms or have been in contact with anyone who has symptoms.
- Please sanitise your hands as you enter and observe social distancing of two metres at all times.
- It is a legal requirement to wear a face covering so please only remove it to take Communion.
- You will be shown to your seat and I will bring Communion to you.

**Hymns** HON 182 Hark a herald voice is calling  
Wait for the Lord – Taize  
HON 156 God of mercy God of grace  
HON 557 People look east – Eleanor Farjeon

### 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.

### Advent Prayer - Matriarchs

As we light the first advent candle, let us pray: Loving God who is both mother and father, we thank you for the matriarchs, who with their brothers, husbands and sons, played their part in your story of hope. We pray that like them we will journey with you in faith, this Advent and always. Amen

### Reading : Isaiah 64.1-9

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains would tremble before you!  
As when fire sets twigs ablaze  
and causes water to boil,  
come down to make your name known to your enemies  
and cause the nations to quake before you!  
For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,  
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.  
Since ancient times no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,  
no eye has seen any God besides you,  
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.  
You come to the help of those who gladly do right,  
who remember your ways.  
But when we continued to sin against them,  
you were angry.  
How then can we be saved?  
All of us have become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;  
we all shrivel up like a leaf,  
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.  
No one calls on your name  
or strives to lay hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us  
and have given us over to our sins.

Yet you, Lord, are our Father.

We are the clay, you are the potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be angry beyond measure, Lord;  
do not remember our sins forever.

Oh, look on us, we pray,  
for we are all your people.

### Reading : Mark 13.24-37

“But in those days, following that distress,  
“the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light;  
the stars will fall from the sky,  
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

### More news

☞ **Call to prayer** - The Archbishops and leaders of other Christian denominations have asked us to all pray each day at 6pm. The resources are on the church website <https://assfchurchcrosbythornton.org.uk/resources/>





↪ **Traidcraft Stall**- – The PCC voted last week to plant 100 Olive trees in the Occupied West Bank of Palestine where olive farmers see their trees frequently vandalised by Israeli settlers. This will be organised by the Fairtrade company, Zaytoun, who import olive products from the Palestinian Fair trade Association.



These products are retailed through Traidcraft and can be seen in the Christmas catalogue available from Kathleen. Olive trees provide the main income for at least 100,000 farmers.

↪ **Calling all knitters** - can you knit angels to give out at our carol singing events? Pattern available from church when church is open. Please contact Diane for further information 924 1808

↪ **Can you help?** We need a person to take notes of our church council meetings- we have ten a year and they are held on zoom at the moment. It's an interesting role and not onerous but access to the internet and computer skills would be helpful

↪ **History Evening** – St Luke's are hosting a community Crosby history evening led by Hugh Hollinghurst on Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Nov at 7.30pm on Zoom followed by a Q&A session. You can sign up for the free event at [www.stlukecrosby.org.uk/events](http://www.stlukecrosby.org.uk/events)

↪ **Big Christmas Carol Service** - As many of you will know our church subscribes to the Royal School of Church Music. This means that every member of the congregation may use their services. They produce a regular newsletter which may be accessed by going to [www.rscm.org.uk](http://www.rscm.org.uk) and scrolling down to the bottom of the page. On December 12th at 6pm they are putting on a Big Christmas Carol Service. This looks really good with John Rutter conducting one of his carols and contributions from Rowan Williams and Theresa May. You can download a pack with the music so that you can practise and join in the singing from your home. To get a link to the service go to <https://www.rscm.org.uk/online-resources/the-big-christmas-carol-service/>

↪ **Chair-based exercise classes back on Zoom - again!!!** Until the latest lockdown is eased, chair-based exercises have gone back onto Zoom. If you feel like trying a Zoom exercise class, you are very welcome to join us every Monday morning at 10am. Contact [annepennington7@gmail.com](mailto:annepennington7@gmail.com) for the Zoom link and further details.

↪ **Fairtrade Christmas Gift & Card Orders** - Please contact Kathleen for a catalogue (0151 286 2127)

↪ **Action by Christians against Torture** - Those who would like once again to send Christmas cards to Prisoners of Conscience will find details at [www.acatuk.org.uk](http://www.acatuk.org.uk) There is also a list of named prisoners and their stories in the Narthex at church.

↪ **Reverse Advent Foodbank Calendar** - could you collect food throughout November for South Sefton Foodbank and be part of this exciting project. Further details on their website <https://southsefton.foodbank.org.uk/news/>. Thank you to all who donated money and groceries- please continue to donate food as regular collections are now taking place at church.

↪ **Embrace** - We are starting to increase our support for Embrace, the Christian charity working in the Middle East supporting Christians. As part of this could you please collect your stamps and drop them off at the Hub or send them to the office for Kathleen to forward. We will be praying regularly for Christians who are increasingly under pressure in Bethlehem, Jerusalem and the West Bank.

↪ **Toy appeal** - There will be a toy appeal this year to support an increasing number of children whose parents are struggling; over 400 were helped last year. To help with COVID-19 logistics it would be appreciated if unwrapped new toys and gift vouchers for teenagers could be bought to church by the 6<sup>th</sup> December please.

### Help for you

↪ The Church of England has a **free dial-in worship service** which offers music, prayers and reflections on a free telephone line 0800 804 8044.

- **Advice Centre** all enquiries should be directed to Citizen's Advice Sefton on 0344 493 0012 [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk). Debt Advice 0151 318 6407 and help to claim Universal Credit 0800 144 8444

### We continue to pray for

Dave Rogers	Mark Isherwood	Eric Anderson
Mark Wilson	Marian Palin	Phyllis Bell
Barbara Maddock	Billy Harding	Judith and Frank Kelly
Ted Meighen	Ken Rimmer	Dave Bruford
Don Wylie	Ken Lawson	Margaret Williams

Please pray for the family & friends of John Ware, John Howard and Ron Manson who have recently passed away.

**Prayer for World Mission** – Give thanks for the successful development of vaccines against Covid 19 and especially one tested in the UK that can be safely used across the world in poorer communities. Pray that nothing will stand in the way of an early end to this unprecedented global pandemic and that medical staff and agencies will be able to cope with the colossal task ahead. Amen

**Prayer for Israel /Palestine** - The World Health Organisation warns that the Health system in Gaza is days away from being overwhelmed as Covid 19 continues to spread rapidly. Pray for Medical Aid for Palestine, working to provide vital equipment and medical supplies to support infection control efforts and help health workers treat patients. Pray that Israel will cease its blockade of this stricken territory. Amen

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