



From the Vicar

Today the Season of Advent begins. The preacher and theologian Flemming Rutledge has this to say, 'to be a Christian is to live every day of our lives in solidarity with those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, but to live in the unshakable hope of those who expect the dawn.' To be a Christian is to live life on the edge as a frontier people. We look back to the explosive coming of God into our world in the cries of a new-born baby; back to the breaking in of the divine, right into the vulnerability of human flesh; back to the miracle of the incarnation. But we are not only those who look back, rather our eyes strain forward also as we wait and anticipate that moment in history in which Jesus – full of divinity, full of humanity – will draw all things to himself: judging, healing, sifting, restoring, recapitulating. For us Christ is the beginning and end of all things, but this leaves us as an 'in-between' people. This means that we should never be comfortable or satisfied with the structures of power or belonging in our world, that we should never be deaf to the cries of those who are left out, or blind to the injustices that we find all around us. To be a Christian is to allow ourselves to be shaped by Christ's life, a life lived out of love, not fear, embrace rather than exclusion, forgiveness rather than hatred. All of this calls us to a re-imagining of what our world could be, and a faithful hope in the one who can make this imagination real. So much of this year has been about a silent waiting in the darkness, a waiting through anxiety and fear, a waiting as the chaos of a world beyond our control begins to surge and sway, a waiting as things we took for granted begin to falter and to fail. But the promise of Christ is born into this world, in all its disorder and difficulty, right into the middle of it, in order to reshape it from the inside out, in order to enable our hope in the God who doesn't abandon us to darkness, but leads us towards the dawn.

Fr Ryan

Giving to All Saints

No cash? Tap to donate!

You can donate by debit or credit card. Choose from the three donation amounts and tap your card on the reader located at the welcome desk.

Gift Aid: Adding value to your donation

If you are a UK taxpayer and do not have a set of planned giving envelopes, please place your donation inside a white envelope (available from the welcomers). Remember to fill in your details completely or we cannot claim Gift Aid (a further 25%) on your donation.

Regular Giving

Should you wish to make regular donations to All Saints, our preferred method of giving is via the Parish Giving Scheme. Further information about the scheme is available online at www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk. Forms are available from the Parish Office.

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Today's Mass

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Setting:

Ireland in C

Anthem:

Es ist ein' Ros entsprungen *Praetorius*
[Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung. Of Hesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung; it came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter when half spent was the night.
O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispel with glorious splendour the darkness everywhere; true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.]

Hymns

29	Hills of the North, rejoice
334	Awake, awake: fling off the night!
39	Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling
28	Hark what a sound

Voluntary:

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, Op. 68 *Peeters*

Parish Notices

Advent Sunday with Baptism

Today the Season of Advent begins, a time of expectant preparation for our Lord's coming. Margaux Vanessa Mellor-Clark will be baptised during mass. Please pray for her and her family as she is welcomed into the life of the Church today.

Advent Carols

Today at 7pm is our Advent Carol Service. We begin in the darkness as Scriptures of apocalyptic vision and prophetic hope are read, ancient carols of Christ's coming are sung, and candles are lit. With is a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie to follow!

Reading between the lines

Today is the last opportunity to purchase a beautiful catalogue of Anne Grebb's art. The books have been beautifully produced for you with full colour renditions of the artworks themselves and commentaries by both Anne and Fr Ryan. A steal at £10. We are still hoping to purchase a piece for the church. If you would like to donate towards this, then please do let us know.

One Bread Café Opens!

Our café is here! Serving tea, coffee and cake from 8am through to 2.30pm from Mondays to Wednesdays. Please make sure to visit Andrew and his team!

Messy Christingle

Join us on Tuesday 7th December in the hall for Messy Christingle with crafts, a short service and a shared meal from 3.45pm. For all the family!

Fr Angus' New Contact Details

If you are ever in Chichester, Fr Angus would be delighted if you were to visit him at St George's, Whyke. His new email is frangusreid@outlook.com and his new address from 30 November is 199 Whyke Road, Chichester, PO19 7AQ.

Fr Lee's Licensing

Our new Associate Vicar, Lee Chantler, is being licensed here at All Saints on Thursday 16th December at 7.30pm by Bishop Martin. Please pray for Fr Lee, Helen and all their family as they make the move from Cornwall to Hove. We would like to get a welcome hamper for Lee and his family on their arrival, if you would like to contribute, please see Fr Ryan or one of the warden's today.

Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 19th December at 7pm is our Festival of Carols. This is one of the most beautiful services of the year in which the mystery of Christmas is revealed through Scripture and music, in a beautifully candle-lit church.

Lunchtime Concerts

Our finale to the lunchtime concert series on Thursday, 2nd December at 1pm features David Price, organist at Portsmouth Cathedral, playing our famous Hill Organ. A big thank you to everyone involved in making the concert series happen and we will be back in 2022.

For our Prayers

Sick: Jacinta Paris; Fleur Boxell; David James; June Elves; Trish Abela; Margaret Giddings; Audrey Ryder; Rameshowar Jung; Sarah Warner; Lucy Sale; Chris Tatton-Borwn. For those who have recently died, including Julie Fallaize, and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time: Philip Tyler; Stuart Clark; Barbara Dilworth; Charles Tatton-Brown; Mary Fedak; Guy Gargulio.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Available by appointment with the Vicar.

Next Week's Readings: The Second Sunday of Advent
Malachi 3.1-4; Benedictus; Philippians 1.3-11; Luke 3.1-6

This Week

The Daily Office (not on Bank Holidays)

Morning prayer: Mon–Thu, 9:00am

Evening prayer: Mon–Thu, 5:00pm

Weekly Eucharists

Tuesday 11:30am

Wednesday 9:30am

Sunday

8:00am

BCP Said Mass (First Sunday only)

10:00am

Choral Mass

Today's Readings

A reading from the book of Jeremiah

The days are surely coming, says the lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Jeremiah 33.14-16

In this portion of Jeremiah's prophecy, we hear of God's promise to raise up a descendent of King David to rule over all his people, in a reign which will be characterised by justice and righteousness. Echoes of last week's celebration of Christ the King lead us into this season of Advent, when we will hear frequently about the 'root of Jesse,' the father of David, as we await the coming of a ruler unlike any ruler who has gone before.

Psalm

Unto thee, O Lord, will I lift up my soul;
my God, I have put my trust in thee
O let me not be confounded, neither let mine enemies triumph over me.
For all they that hope in thee shall not be ashamed
but such as transgress without a cause shall be put to confusion.
Shew me thy ways, O Lord
and teach me thy paths.
Lead me forth in thy truth, and learn me
for thou art the God of my salvation;
in thee hath been my hope all the day long.
Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mercies
and thy loving-kindnesses, which have been ever of old.
O remember not the sins and offences of my youth
but according to thy mercy think thou upon me, O Lord, for thy goodness.
Gracious and righteous is the Lord
therefore will he teach sinners in the way.
Them that are meek shall he guide in judgement
and such as are gentle, them shall he learn his way.
All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth
unto such as keep his covenant, and his testimonies.

Psalm 25.1-9

The psalmist prays a prayer of trust and hope in God, which will keep him from shame and the treachery of his enemies. He draws a stark contrast between his own sins, rooted in his youth and in the constraints of time, with the paradoxically ancient timelessness and eternity of God, whose love and mercy stretch right back to before the beginning of time itself. In this season, as we prepare to welcome the Ancient of Days in a tiny baby, we are invited to view the coming of our Saviour as part of the unbroken story of God's love and faithfulness towards us.

A reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 3.9-end

Writing to the Thessalonian Christians, St Paul identifies the joy they bring as a blessing from God, a freely-given gift of grace. Yet even among such joy there are things lacking in his beloved Thessalonians; there is always room for growth in faith, on this side of eternity. He closes with a beautiful benediction, and then directs his prayer towards the 'parousia,' the second coming of Jesus. During Advent, we direct our gaze not only towards Jesus' first coming in the Incarnation, but also towards the second coming of which St Paul speaks, in a kind of expectant tension, a recognition that we inhabit the in-between times of waiting, hoping and praying.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

Luke 21.25-36

Jesus' apocalyptic vision similarly points towards the end times, his second coming in clouds and great majesty, which will shake even the very heavens. He predicts fearful signs and wonders, yet assures us that these wonders are a sign not merely of judgement, but also of redemption. The coming of the kingdom of God is about our redemption, and so we are warned to be alert at all times, not to be weighed down by the cares of the world which will pass away, but rather to pray for the strength to stand before our Redeemer when he comes again in glory.

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For the latest information about everything that is happening at All Saints, together with copies of the latest Sunday sermons and current issue of PewNews, please see our website: www.allsaintshove.org.

