

THE BENEFICE OF EAST CLEVEDON

Advent 3 – 12th December 2021

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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.

Zephaniah 3: 14-end

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

Luke 3: 7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Hymn numbers are displayed on the boards in church

IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our benefice we pray for those who are sick; Alan Smith, Ray Weaver, Doug Todd, David Major, Doy Marriott, Richard Osborne, Joan Harris, Rachel Attride, Jeanne Luker, David Wardle.

We pray for those who have recently died; Pamela Coles.

In our year's mind we remember, John Lyon, Douglas Hewlett, and we pray for all who are mourning the loss of loved ones at this time.

Carol services today: St Michael's, Clapton – 3pm; All Saints – 4pm

Notices

Covid update In line with current Government regulations, the wearing of face coverings is now mandatory during worship unless exempt. Face coverings do not need to be worn when singing or during refreshments after the services. Tea and coffee will be served in church as usual, as will seasonal refreshments after the carol services.

Christmas services – all Christmas services are listed on [page 21](#) of the Parish Magazine. All Christmas services will proceed as advertised.

Crib Festival: Sunday 12th December – Sunday 19th December

10 am – 4pm All Saints Church. Entry is free but donations welcomed. Refreshments available.

The Parish Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year. But in the case of a pastoral emergency please contact the Rector on 873257.

Deadline for January magazine is 9am Monday, 13th December. Please send all copy to Laura Durrant at Laura.EastClevedonChurches@gmail.com

Wednesday communions

10.00am St Mary's

11.00am St Peter and St Paul's at Boxwood Cottage

(Please note there will be no Wednesday communions on 29th December)

Next Sunday (19th December)

8.00am All Saints Holy Communion

10.00am St Mary's Holy Communion

10.30am All Saints Holy Communion

3.00pm St Paul's Carol Service

6.00pm St Mary's Carol Service

6.00pm St Peter and St Paul's Carol Service (Village Hall)