

THE BENEFICE OF EAST CLEVEDON

Advent 2 – 4th December

www.eastclevedonchurches.co.uk

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 for ever.

Isaiah 11: 1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Matthew 3: 1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight."'

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume 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.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our benefice we pray for those who are sick; Ray Weaver, Doy Marriott, Ray Willis, Becci McCready, Dave Delaney, Nicholas Percy, Shirley Brown, Lynne Ruddock.

We pray for those who have recently died;

In our year's mind we remember, Jeff Prescott, Glyndwr Hartnell, Kathleen Harris, and we pray for all who are mourning the loss of loved ones at this time.

Hymn numbers are displayed on the boards in church

Notices

St Mary's 'Warm Welcome': Every Wednesday in winter St Mary's will host a warm space, coffee and chat from 10.30am – 12.00 in the church hall following the 10.00am communion service. This is part of the Clevedon Churches Warm Welcome initiative. Please come, you are very welcome.

Crib Festival at All Saints Friday 9th December – Sunday 11th December. *Come and see our wide and varied interpretations of the traditional nativity theme in the beautiful setting of All Saints Church. 10am – 4pm. Light refreshments will be available. Entry is free but donations are welcomed.*

Weston Hospicecare Candlelit Carol Service 'Light up a life' at St Mary's 7pm on Wednesday, 14th December
All very welcome and especially suitable for anyone who will be missing a loved one over the Christmas period, and you can dedicate a lantern in church in their memory when you come. Refreshments available after the service.

Wednesday communions

10.00am St Mary's
11.00am St Peter and St Paul's

Tuesday (6th December)
10.10am All Saints School Assembly

Wednesday (7th December)
1.00pm Interment of ashes of Alison Matthews, Clapton

Thursday (8th December)
12.30pm Little Saints (All Saints Vestry)
Setting up cribs for All Saints Crib Festival.

Friday (9th December)
Launch of Crib Festival, All Saints Church
7.30pm Folk at Christmas concert (BadgerSet), All Saints Church

Next Sunday (11th December)
8.00am All Saints Holy Communion
10.00am St Mary's Morning Prayer
10.30am All Saints Holy Communion
11.15am St Paul's Morning Prayer
3.00pm St Michael's, Clapton Carol Service
4.00pm All Saints Carol Service
5.00pm St Peter and St Paul Evensong