

WHEATHILL PRIORY BENEFICE

“Jesus Lives: Follow Him”

Sunday 13 December Advent 3

Advent, a time of preparation is also a time when we read several Old Testament prophecies. These are like varifocal glasses, often referring to something that is imminent to the prophet’s time, that will occur in the middle distance or at the culmination and end of time.

This week’s reading from Isaiah has all of these at their heart. For the exiles longing to return home the message of Isaiah 61 is one of hope. Jesus takes those same words and applies them to himself, and we have not yet seen an ending to injustice, there is still mourning and we see those who are broken hearted and imprisoned in so many ways.

Yet amid this Isaiah has hope. Hope that the sorrow, pain and struggle will one day be changed. Hope that there will be joy and delight, the glory of God seen. Hope that God’s righteousness and praise will be heard.

But what does that hope say to us in the midst of whatever is confronting us today and each day? What does it say to a world that continues to struggle with the implications of Covid, never mind cancer, heart disease and other challenges, be they physical, economic or emotional. I think that there are two things in particular:

- This world is not the end of the story. There is hope of a place that is beyond the inequalities, suffering, joys, and pains of mortal life.
- Amid all we encounter in daily life there is hope. Hope that we are not alone, Jesus, Emmanuel ‘God with us’ is indeed with us.

So as our advent journey, and our life journey continue may we know the hope that God brings, and the reality of His presence amid all we encounter in our daily lives. Where do you long to see him this week?

Worship and readings for week beginning 13 December

Sunday 13 Psalm 126, Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-end, John 1:6-8, 19-28

8:30am Holy Communion Keinton Mandeville, 10:30am Morning Prayer

Barton St David, 4pm A Blue Christmas Carol Service Lydford on Fosse

(A quiet and reflective carol service)

Monday 14 Psalm 40, Isaiah 49:14-25, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

9am Morning Prayer Keinton Mandeville

Tuesday 15 Psalm 70, Isaiah 50, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-end

7:30pm Advent Course on Zoom

Wednesday 16 Psalm 75, Isaiah 51:1-8, 2 Thessalonians 1

Thursday 17 Psalm 76, Isaiah 51:9-16, 2 Thessalonians 2

Friday 18 Psalm 98, Isaiah 51:17-end, 2 Thessalonians 3

Saturday 19 Psalm 146, Isaiah 52:1-12, Jude

Sunday 20 **8:30am Holy Communion Lydford on Fosse, 2:30pm Carol**

Service in Kingweston Grain Store (TA11 6BE) or on YouTube

Forthcoming services:

Thursday 24 Christmas Eve

4pm Crib Service Keinton Churchyard,

8pm Holy Communion Lydford on Fosse (and livestreamed on YouTube)

11:15pm Holy Communion with choir Keinton

Friday 25 Christmas Day

8:30am Holy Communion Barton St David

10:30am Christmas Celebration Lydford on Fosse

Please book for all the above services at <https://wheathill.org/> or by phoning the person responsible, details in December Magazine

Sunday 27 December

10:30am Holy Communion by extension Kingweston Church