



10<sup>th</sup> December 2023  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

St James' Church  
www.stjamesexeter.org Exeter

### Rector

Fr Henry Pryse 01392 431297  
Day Off: Thursday

**Parish Office** 01392 420407

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Charity register number: 1128877

### Notices

#### Mince Pies

Please add your name to the list at the back of the church if you are able to provide a few mince pies to be served after the carol service next Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> December.

#### Making the Church Beautiful

Would you like to make a contribution towards the cost of flowers to decorate the church for Christmas? Please pass your cash donation to Liz Holland, Pat Snell or a churchwarden.

#### Advent Extra

This helpful magazine is available at the back of the church. A donation of £3 in the wall safe or by card is suggested.

#### Advent Wreath Prayer

*Lord Jesus, Light of the World, the prophets said you bring peace and save your people in trouble. Give peace in our hearts at Christmastide and show all the world God's love.*

#### Collect

*O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.*

10.00 am Music

Entrance hymn	513	On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
Offertory hymn	270	Hills of the North, Rejoice
Recessional hymn	400	Long Ago, Prophets Knew

### This Week

Morning Prayer is said at 8.30 am

Online: Mon, Wed

In the church: Tue, Thu, Fri

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> December** Luke 5: 17 – 26

11.00 am Holy Communion, Kingsgate

7.00 pm Choir practice

**Tue 12<sup>th</sup> December** Matthew 18: 12 – 14

6.00 pm Christingle service for  
uniformed organisations

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup> December** Matthew 11: 28 – 30

12.00 noon Holy Communion

12.30 pm Friends Who Lunch

**Thu 14<sup>th</sup> December** Matthew 11: 11 – 15

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup> December** Matthew 11: 16 – 19

2.30 pm Craft Group

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> December** Matthew 17: 10 – 13

Next Sunday: 17<sup>th</sup> December

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

John 1: 6 – 8 & 19 – 28

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

11.30 am JAM and 11-Ups Nativity

3.00 pm Exeter Cathedral Nativity

3.30 pm Choir practice

6.00 pm Carol service

### TODAY

4.00 pm Christingle Service

Sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service

### First Reading: Isaiah 40: 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

### Second Reading: 2 Peter 3: 8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

### Gospel Reading: Mark 1: 1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,"' John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptised you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

### Post-Communion Prayer

***Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.***