



17th December 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent

St James' Church
www.stjamesexeter.org Exeter

Rector

Fr Henry Pryse 01392 431297

Day Off: Thursday

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Charity register number: 1128877

Notices

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.

TODAY

11.30 am	JAM and 11-Ups Nativity
3.30 pm	Choir practice
4.00 pm	Exeter Cathedral Nativity
6.00 pm	Carol service

Advent Wreath Prayer

Lord Jesus, Light of the World, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now.

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.

10.00 am Music

Entrance hymn	249	Hark, the Glad Sound!
Offertory hymn	640	The Race that Long in Darkness Pined
Recessional hymn	469	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

This Week

Morning Prayer is said at 8.30 am

Online: Mon, Wed

In the church: Tue, Thu, Fri

Mon 18th December Matthew 1: 18 – 24

10.30 am Holy Communion,
The Old Rectory

6.00 pm Community Christmas singing,
Rosebank Crescent

7.00 pm Choir practice

Tue 19th December Luke 1: 5 – 25

6.00 pm Messy Church team social

Wed 20th December Luke 1: 26 – 28

12.00 noon Holy Communion

7.00 pm Choir practice

Thu 21st December Luke 1: 39 – 45

Fri 22nd December Luke 1: 46 – 56

Sat 23rd December Luke 1: 57 – 66

10.00 am Church Christmas decorating

Next Sunday: 24th December

4th Sunday of Advent John 1: 19 – 28

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

4.00 pm Crib service

11.00 pm Midnight Mass

Sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service

First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-4 & 8-11

The servant of the Lord said: The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. [...] For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

My brothers and sisters, rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Gospel Reading: John 1: 6-8 & 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. [...] This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

Post-Communion Prayer

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

