



14th December 2025
3rd Sunday of Advent

St James' Church
www.stjamesexeter.org Exeter

Rector

Fr Henry Pryse 01392 431297

Day off: Thursday

Parish Office

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Charity register number: 1128877

Notices

Flowers for Christmas

Donations may be given to Pat Snell or Liz Holland. Helpers are welcome in the church between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon on Christmas Eve. Feel free to bring additional flowers or greenery!

JAM and 11-ups' Nativity

Join us in the hall after the Parish Eucharist today.

Carol Service

Please come along next Sunday at 6.00 pm. The service will be followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the hall.

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

Processional hymn 244 **Hail to the Lord's Anointed**

Offertory hymn 640 **The Race that Long in Darkness Pined**

Recessional hymn 270 **Hills of the North, Rejoice**

This Week

Morning Prayer is said at 8.30 am

Online: Mon, Wed

In the church: Tue, Thu, Fri

Mon 15th December Matthew 21: 23 – 27

10.15 am Communion, Old Rectory

11.15 am Communion, Kingsgate

6.00 pm Community Christmas singalong, top of Rosebank Crescent

7.00 pm Choir practice

Tue 16th December Matthew 21: 28 – 32

Wed 17th December Matthew 1: 1 – 17

12.00 noon Eucharist

Thu 18th December Matthew 1: 18 – 24

Fri 19th December Luke 1: 5 – 25

10.30 am Coffee morning

2.00 pm Craft group

Sat 20th December Luke 1: 26 – 38

12.00 noon Interment of ashes

Next Sunday: 21st December

4th Sunday of Advent

Matthew 1: 18 – 25

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Carol service



First Reading: Isaiah 35: 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Second Reading: James 5: 7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11: 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

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.

