

Parish of Findon, Clapham & Patching

Walking together in the Way of Christ and sharing His love with others

Sunday 4th December 2022 **Second Sunday of Advent**



- 8.00am Traditional Communion at Findon Church
10.00am Worship & Praise at Findon Church with 'Cornerstone'
10.00am Eucharist at Patching Church
406 Long Ago, Prophets Knew; **527** On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry; **88** Brother, Sister, Let me Serve You; **187** Forth in the Peace of Christ we go

Congratulations to Nancy and Sid Ford
who celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary this week



Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent



Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. **Amen**

Bible reading: Matt. 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.'

Reflection This Sunday, we think about the Prophets, those who spoke of the coming of the Messiah, as we light our second Advent candle. Through the Old Testament, we find books of prophesy, telling of how God's word came to people like Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah to name a few, looking ahead and giving choices to God's people and warning of the consequences of failing to heed God's word to his people. Many also foretold of the coming of the Christ.

But for many years, no true prophet had spoken, until as we see in today's account from Matthew John burst on the scene in the Judean desert preaching a gospel of repentance, sternly warning the religious authorities of his time that their actions have consequences and the fulfilment of prophesy as God's kingdom draws near. John quotes words from the prophet Isaiah – 'Prepare the way of the Lord'. Matthew links him to the greatest prophet, Elijah, through his clothing (see 2 Kings 1:8)

As Jews believe that the coming of the promised Messiah will be preceded by the return of the prophet Elijah, John is to be seen as the herald of the Christ. His call to prepare the way for Jesus is also for you and me today! Amen

Other readings for today: *Isa. 11: 1-10; Ps. 72: 1-7, 18-19 (or 72: 1-7); Rom. 15: 4-13*

* The highlighted text indicates the chosen reading for our church services.

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. **Amen**

DIARY AND READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday 5th

Luke 5: 17-26

Tuesday 6th

Isa. 40: 1-11; Ps. 96: 1, 10-end; Matt. 18: 12-14

10.00am – Holy Communion at Findon Church

10.30am – LambsTails in Findon Village Hall; last one until January!

3.30pm – Messy Church in Findon Village Hall

7.45pm – 9.15pm – Bellringing Practice at Findon Church

Wednesday 7th

Matt. 11: 28-end

9.00am – Morning Prayer at Findon Church

10.30am – Short Advent Reflection at the Rectory

Thursday 8th Dec.

Matt. 11: 11-15

Friday 9th Dec.

Matt. 11: 16-19

9.00am – Morning Prayer at Findon Church

7.30pm – Christmas Concert at Patching Church with 'Harvest Home'

Saturday 10th Dec.

Matt. 17: 10-13

Sunday 11th – Third Sunday of Advent

Isa. 35: 1-10; Ps. 146: 4-10 or Canticle: Magnificat; Jas. 5: 7-10; Matt. 11: 2-11

8.00am – Traditional Communion at Clapham Church

9.30am – Eucharist at Findon

Please remember in your prayers:

- Our children and young people; staff from our schools and preschool; our work with children and young people.
- Those in Rogers Lane, Woodland Close and Patching Street.
- The sick and those who care for them including: Rowan Potter; Teresa Street; Colin and Stella Hastings; Anne De Campenhout; Jeanne Hastings; Jean Grieves; John Sayles; baby Eda Spencer; David Gear; Brian.
- On their anniversary: **4th** Joan Monks; **6th** Katie Street; **7th** Dorothy Groves
- **RIP:** Ted Chapman (Clapham resident); Tony Viner

NOTICES

The **Parish Card** should now have been delivered to every house in our villages and can be taken from the back of each church if you live outside the Village. Please let the Office know if you haven't received one.

Findon Christmas Cards – on sale at Findon Church, DeeDee's and the village shop.

CURRENTLY SOLD OUT IN CHURCH BUT MORE SUPPLIES COMING!!

£1.50 each – all profits going to the Church. We are grateful to Maggie Martin for her beautiful painting.

Christmas Cards also available at Clapham and Patching Churches.

Short Advent Reflection – Week 2 – Wednesday 7th December, 10.30am at the Rectory. All welcome!

Christmas Concert at Patching Church – Friday 9th Dec., 7.30pm

Christmas Music featuring 'Harvest Home'. Mulled wine and mince pies. No ticket event. Retiring collection.

Chichester Cathedral Carol Services

Tues. 20th Dec. 6.30pm, Wed. 21st Dec. 6.30pm, Thurs. 22nd Dec. 3.00pm & 6.30pm

Tickets are free but need to be booked in advance. Booking is via the website <https://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/> Any questions, please ask Claire Kersley



Next Messy Church - Tuesday 6th December

3.30 – 5.30pm in Findon Village Hall. All children welcome with an accompanying adult for crafts, a story, singing and food!



Please use our donation code if you have a smart phone.

All money donated goes to the Parish for the upkeep of our Churches.

Parish Giving Scheme "PGS"

If you would like to join this tax beneficial scheme to make a regular gift to the Parish by direct debit, use <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/findon-clapham-patching-worthing/> (Parish code: 100610130). Alternatively, please contact our PGS administrator - Ian Hollyhomes t: 01903 872475, e: ianhollyhomes52@gmail.com

Other ways of supporting our Parish can be found under the Giving Page of our Website below.

Website: www.findon-clapham-patching-churches.com

Facebook: Parish of Findon, Clapham & Patching

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