

## NOTICES

**Community Hospital Service:** Thank you to those who supported the first Sunday service since the pandemic. There will be one on 10 December, led by the Methodists. In the new year we shall be planning a new pattern of services on a weekday.

**'Waiting in Prayer' Tea Time at St John's for Advent:** Three services of informal worship will be held on Sundays 26 Nov and 3 & 10 Dec at 4pm. Quiet, contemplative Advent themes, led by members of the congregation. All are welcome!

**December Café & Mini Market:** Sunday 3 December.

**Christmas lunch at the Bennett Centre:** To raise funds for the continuing renovation of the Bennett Centre, 'Connew Catering' (who have provided us with delicious harvest suppers, Shrove Tuesday pancakes etc in the past) are now offering us and other supporters of the Bennett Centre a three-course traditional Christmas lunch (with vegetarian option) on Saturday 9th December, 12.30 for 1pm, bring your own bottle - a great opportunity for us to get together in the warmth of the Bennett Centre! Tickets £15 each, from Peter, Christine and Mandy.

## DIARY DATES

Tues 28 Nov	11am Julian Meeting 7pm PCC Meeting (BC)
Sun 3 Dec	11am-2pm Café & Mini Market 4pm 'Waiting in Prayer' informal worship
Wed 6 Dec	6.30pm <i>Inspired to Read</i> Book Club (BC)
Thurs 7 Dec	2-4pm Craft & Cake Special; Christmas Wreaths (BC)
Sat 9 Dec	10am Open Doors & Lesson Readers meeting 12.30pm Bennett Centre Christmas Lunch (BC) 2pm Wedding
Sun 10 Dec	4pm 'Waiting in Prayer' informal worship 4pm Community Hospital Service (led by Methodist Church)

**THE PARISH OF FROME, ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, BA11 1PL**

**Vicar: Revd. Colin Alsbury 01373 472853**

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**SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2023**

**Second before Advent**

**8.00am Service at Christ Church**

8.45am Morning Service via Zoom

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85855134224?  
pwd=RGFzNDZFPdXZrcG1yVDN1ZkhtUGZYZZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85855134224?pwd=RGFzNDZFPdXZrcG1yVDN1ZkhtUGZYZZ09)

Meeting ID: 858 5513 4224 Passcode: 651058

**9.45am Holy Communion**

**Thursday 23 November**

2-4pm Craft & Cake

BC

**Friday 24 November**

6.30pm Choir Practice

Evening - Frome Extravaganza & lights switch on

**SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2023**

**Christ the King - Sunday next before Advent**

8.45am Morning Service via Zoom

**9.00am Service at St Mary's**

**9.45am Holy Communion**

**4.00pm 'Waiting in Prayer' Informal Worship for Advent**

## Second before Advent (Year A)

### COLLECT

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation: stir us from apathy, restrain us from excess and revive in us new hope that all creation will one day be healed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**



### FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for

wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the word of the LORD, **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25.14-30

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents."

His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours."

But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**