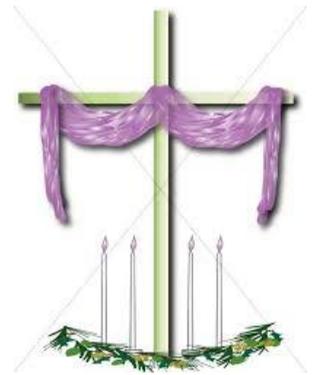


Advent Sunday

Services for this Sunday morning
are available online

8pm Compline – *Zoom service*



Our Churches are open again for public worship within the given restrictions,
but we must not socialise in the building!!

Online worship continues.

There is social distancing in all 3 Churches –

*Please remember your face masks and to sanitise your hands when going in and again
when coming out.*

Thank you to Nancy for the reflection this week.

Collect



Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Bible reading for this Sunday: Mark 13: 24-end

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light; the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then everyone will see the Son of Man arriving in the clouds with great power and glory. Then he will send angels and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“Learn this parable from the fig tree: Whenever its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also you, when you see these things happening, know that he is near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

“But as for that day or hour no one knows it—neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son - except the Father. Watch out! Stay alert! For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey. He left his house and put his slaves in charge, assigning to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to stay alert. Stay alert, then, because you do not know when the owner of the house will return—whether during evening, at midnight, when the rooster crows, or at dawn—or else he might find you asleep when he returns suddenly. What I say to you I say to everyone: Stay **alert!**”

Reflection on the reading:

Today is Advent Sunday and it is the start of a time of preparation for Christmas. Well, we are used to Christmas preparations in our homes as we plan food and decorations for the festive season, as we buy presents and send cards, and as we arrange family meetings and celebrations. In the Church, too, we have a time of preparation called Advent, which comes from the Latin verb *advenire*, which means to come towards or to arrive. Even though Advent is the time when we prepare for family meetings and celebrations at Christmas, in the Church, it is a time, not of frenetic planning and purchasing, wrapping and writing, but of reflection, prayer and of looking ahead, not just to Christmas but to Jesus’ second coming at the end of time.

The Reading from Mark’s Gospel talks of the ‘end times’ when Jesus will come again in power and glory, not as a helpless baby, but as our King; and we will be with Him forever. However, the parable of the man going on a journey reminds us that we don’t know when this will happen. The man makes his preparations and sets out, having put others in charge of his property and someone in charge of security. These people are warned to keep alert and to be on watch, because they don’t know when their master will return. It is the same for us; we don’t know when Christ will come again, so we need to be prepared at all times; there’s no time for slacking or taking it easy, or else we may be caught out. I was taught to ‘Be prepared’ many years ago when I was a Girl Guide and we all need to be just as prepared now. So as we prepare for the festivities, and the family get-togethers which I hope we can share, I pray that we will also find time to be prepared for the coming of our Saviour.

A Prayer:

Lord, be with us at this time of preparation for your coming at Christmas and your coming in glory. Help us to remain faithful to you and watchful for your return. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Other readings for today: Amos. 5: 18-24; Ps 70; 1 Thess. 4: 13-end

Post Communion prayer:

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Weekly Readings:

Monday: Matt 4: 18-22

Tuesday: Isa 11: 1-10; Ps 72: 1-4, 18-19; Luke 10: 21-24

Wednesday: Matt. 15: 29-37

Thursday: Matt. 7: 21, 24-27

Friday: Matt. 9: 27-31

Saturday: Matt. 9.35 – 10.1, 6-8

Sunday: Isa. 40: 1-11; Ps 85: 1-2, 8-end; 2 Pet. 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8

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 The Square, Clapham Common and Hillside.
- **The sick and those who care for them** including: Dilys Allcorn, Julie Brooks, John Childs, Anna Davison, Matthew Moppett, Jill, Teresa Street, Ann and Richard Currer-Briggs, Jill Juster; Jane Wyatt (now in Zachary Merton), Emilia, Biddy Bolding
- **On their Anniversary:** 1st Terence Curtis, 4th Joan Monks, 5th Ali Crowther, Lorna Pannell, Pauline Rooke
- **RIP: John Hammond** (funeral 11 December, 2.30pm in Findon Church – sadly numbers will be limited)

All activities and groups cancelled until further notice.

Food Bank Donations for Turning Tides:

On Fridays and Saturdays during December, there will be a crib outside Findon Village Stores for donations of much needed items for Turning Tides.

See Findon News for more details.

Findon Village Candle of Hope

Make a Christmas window display for everyone to enjoy and help to brighten up our village for Christmas! More details in Findon News.

Christmas Cards

These are available from the Rectory or the Village Shop. There is an order form at the back of Findon Church. We are grateful to Maggie Martin for her beautiful painting.

A Call to Prayer for the Nation - Invitation to pray at **6pm every day**, beginning **5 November** for the period of this present lock-down. Church bells may be rung as a call to prayer at 6pm.

These are the daily themes for prayers:

- Sundays:** Family, friends and loved ones
- Mondays:** Schools and colleges, children and young people
- Tuesdays:** Elderly, isolated and vulnerable.
- Wednesdays:** Businesses, the workplace and economic wellbeing
- Thursdays:** The NHS and other key workers
- Fridays:** National and Local Government
- Saturdays:** All who are grieving,
and all suffering with physical and mental ill-health

For particular prayers with a focus for each day, use the link below:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches/call-prayer-nation>.



Please visit our Facebook page:
Parish of Findon, Clapham & Patching

Contributions for pew sheet notices are invited to be submitted to the Rectory by 10.00am on Friday: findoncrectory@gmail.com, 873601.