



St Mary's Church

Prestwich

GROWING · GIVING · SERVING



Sunday, 15th November 2020

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

Advent 2020

This year we will be running our Advent group by Zoom.

The group will meet for an hour on a Friday evening (time to be confirmed) for the first three weeks of December (4th, 11th and 18th) to continue with the exploration of 'Signs of Life' that we began during Lent.

This is just as, if not more, relevant during this time of pandemic as it ever was. It does not matter whether you were involved last time as the topic each week stands alone. So everybody is invited to join us.

A leaflet is attached with information. If you are interested, please get in touch with Rev'd Carole either by email - caroleabarnet@gmail.com - or by phone on 0161 766 2774. Zoom joining details will then be sent round nearer the time.

Church Services and private prayer

St Mary's church will be open again on Sunday from 10.00am – 11.00am for private prayer: there is no need to book in, just sit where there is a green tick and turn it over to the red cross when you leave. If you would like to receive communion then pre-consecrated wafers will be available at the back of church with a service sheet following a pattern of the Eucharist used at Home or in hospital: please take the sacrament and the sheet when you enter and as you pray through the service you can receive communion at the appropriate point. Then, please take away the order of service with you.

Wednesday this week (18th) will see the church **open at a slightly earlier time for private prayer** – 11.00-11.45am, as there is a funeral service in church at 12.00noon.

School Admissions Policy

Diocesan and national advice has been issued about the recording of attendance at Church worship for school admission purposes. Please refer to either the Church or the School websites for further information.

Music for the 2nd Sunday before Advent Service online

Before Service:

Prelude on 'Rhosymedre' - R. Vaughan Williams

Altar preparation:

Minuet (from 'Joseph') - G.F. Handel

Communion:

Chorale Improvisation "Rejoice my soul" S. Karg-Elert (Op 65/5)

Final Voluntary:

Introduction & Gavotte (from 'Otho') - G.F. Handel

Prayer matters!

[PRAY - ACT - BE](#)

Manchester Diocese is inviting everyone to be part of a year-long pilgrimage of prayer. The link above outlines some of the things you might want to consider doing in November to be part of this. In her sermon last Sunday, Rev'd Carole made reference to this initiative, so it might sound familiar to you already. Each month, the Diocese is encouraging us to explore prayer on a different theme, shaped by a three-fold invitation to Pray – Act – Be. In November we are enjoined to have space to listen in our life of prayer.

[Prayers for the Nation](#)

The two archbishops of the Church of England have encouraged all her members to pray for the nation during this new month of lockdown. To assist in resourcing this, there is a small booklet of some suggested prayers (click on the above link), which is also attached, and which we aim to send out to members of the congregation who do not have access to online/electronic resources. There's a particular encouragement to try and pray each day at 6.00pm if this is possible, so that there is a sense in which the whole church is joined together in this prayer. Obviously this won't be possible for everyone, but do consider trying to make space to pray very specifically and deliberately for our nations each day from now until Advent.



Lord Let your love shine on those in need of our prayers: Lily-Rose Ahmadi; David Arnold, Lorayah Bevan, Nigel Birtwistle, Graham Coward, Graham Fleet, Andrew Hardman, Helen Hicks, Deborah Kane, Heather Kay, Elaine Kirk, Jean Murphy, James O'Meara, Rev'd Deborah Sandercock-Pickles, Maryam Sedeghi

Sending love and prayers to the families of: Ellen Brown, Danny Enifer and Peter Simpson – may they rest in peace and rise in glory.



Incumbent/Priest-in-Charge

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Readings for Second Sunday before Advent

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.

A reading from the Prophet Zephaniah

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.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

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.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew *Matthew 25.14-30*

Jesus told them another parable '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."

Post-Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

