

THE BENEFICE OF MINCHINHAMPTON WITH BOX AND AMBERLEY

Accept and share the generosity of God's love.

The First Sunday of Advent

3rd December 2017

A warm welcome to our services, especially if you are here for the first time. Everyone baptised or who normally receives in their own church, including children, may receive the bread and wine at the altar. If you require a gluten free wafer, please indicate this at the altar rail. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please carry the service booklet with you when you go up to the altar.

Readings for Today

First Reading: Isaiah 64. 1 - 9

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1. 3 - 9 Gospel: Mark 13. 24 - 37

KEEP AWAKE, KEEP WATCH!

What do we do with the season of Advent? What is it for? Usually it involves running around being very busy, buying Christmas trees and cards, and realising how many days are left to get everything prepared: will we ever be ready? But getting everything prepared for Christmas ought to include getting ourselves prepared, and that's something we're not so good at. And yet this season is not about activity, but staying awake, watching and waiting. Our Gospel reading from Mark makes this clear. It is quite sobering to read of the Son of Man coming to his own, and longing to find them ready for him. It puts quite a different spin on the question, 'Will we ever be ready?' Preparing for the coming of Christ is not like the preparations for Christmas! It is not about rushing around, or being found busy - even in worthwhile causes! Being ready is about staying awake - about keeping our hearts alive to the pulse of God's breathe within us. It is about noticing and knowing what is important. It is about waiting and watchfulness. It is about quiet observance and prayer. Even as Christians engaged in Christian activity, we can get so busy that we miss these important aspects of our relationship with God. We miss the signs of God's presence and blessing. Just as a fig tree tells you the season, be alert to the spiritual season. So what do we do with the season of Advent? In the busyness, we pause. We look about us. We remember why we are doing this. We give time and space for Christ in our lives once again. Today is the start of the new liturgical year. It begins in watchfulness and waiting. A time to prepare our hearts, so we may welcome his coming with great joy.

www.minchchurch.org.uk

Church Office: 01453 889004

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SERVICES AT OUR CHURCHES TODAY

HOLY TRINITY, MINCHINHAMPTON

There is a loop system for those with hearing aids.

8am Eucharist **(In The Porch Room)**
President & Preacher: Revd Ann Morris

10am Parish Eucharist – All Age
(In Minchinhampton School Hall)
President & Talk: Revd John Thompson

Hymns: 29, 31, 28, 39

NO Evening Prayer

5.30pm Advent Carol Service at Amberley Church

ST BARNABAS, BOX

9am Eucharist
President: Canon Mike Tucker Preacher: Revd Ann Morris

Hymns: 26, 36 *tune* 391, 449, 334

HOLY TRINITY, AMBERLEY

8am Said Communion
President: Revd John Spiers Preacher: Revd Sandy Emery

10am Parish Eucharist
President: Revd John Spiers Preacher: Revd Sandy Emery

4.30pm Advent Tea before Advent Carol Service – Parish Room

5.30pm Advent Carol Service Revd John Spiers

NOTICES –

BENEFICE ADVENT TEA **TODAY** – 4.30pm Parish Room, Amberley. Come and join us for a Bring-and-Share Advent Carol Service at 5.30pm. Bring a plate of something sweet or savoury to share at 4.30pm. All welcome!

TRAIDCRAFT STALL - There will be a Traidcraft stall NEXT Sunday (December 10) in the porch room after the 10am service. There will be Christmas cards, wrapping paper and other Christmas goodies. Please come along and support Traidcraft.

CHALICE OF NON-ALCOHOLIC COMMUNION WINE - From December 10 we will have a small chalice of non-alcoholic communion wine alongside our usual chalices of wine, as we know there are a couple of people who for medical reasons need this option. If you would like to receive from this chalice, please just let us know at the altar, and the chalice administrant will offer you the correct chalice, in just the same way as those who need gluten-free wafers are offered those. Many thanks.

MOLLIE WORRALL THANKSGIVING SERVICE – Saturday December 16 at 4pm in Parish Church. For those who do not like going home in the dark transport will be provided.

CHURCH SERVICES - As from Sunday December 10 the 10am service will be **permanently** back in the church. The 8.30am, evening prayer and all weekday services will continue to be held in the Porch room until further notice. From January there will be no access to the main church building during the week: the builders return to lay the limestone slab flooring. Completion of this phase of the work expected by Easter.

GOD WITH US - is the C of E Christmas campaign this year. See our magazine for details. We have 200 copies of 'Your Christmas Journey' to give away - first come, first served. Please pick one up in our church services. These small booklets lead us in reflections throughout Advent. If you have access to the web, instead of picking up one of our booklets, you can download the resources at www.churchofengland.org/christmas or sign up to receive texts and emails. If you have a friend who would benefit from receiving one, please do pick one up to give away.

PRAYING THROUGH ADVENT CARDS are also available at the back of church. These are free - do please take one. It can also be downloaded at <http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/2017/advent-resources-2017> Why not print out some yourself, and pop them into your Christmas cards for friends? There will soon be other cards available: PRAYING THROUGH CHRISTMAS, and PRAYING THROUGH EPIPHANY.

PARISH BREAKFASTS - will start up again in January 2018. Please do continue to come and enjoy a coffee and a chat after the 10am service on Sundays.

EVENING PRAYER – daily at 5.30pm, (4.30pm Fridays). We need a couple of people to commit to leading on a weekly or fortnightly basis. It requires no preparing of prayers. For more information please contact Revd Sandy Emery.

HEAVEN KNOWS! (Even if we don't) - a book of rhymes and recollections, a light-hearted look at Minchinhampton and travels further afield. On sale at church, Stafford Cottage and Taylor's Butchers, £5 in aid of the 6Ps Appeal. Information from Hilary (884163), Mandy (882477).

SPONSOR A CHAIR OR A CHOIR STAND- forms are available in the Porch room or from the Church Office in Butt Street. Chairs cost £200 with £10 for a plaque. Choir Stand costs £812.50. For part sponsorship amend the amounts on the form accordingly. mandyjutsum@btinternet.com, 01453 882477.

MESSY CHURCH – MORE HELPERS NEEDED, PLEASE. We only do about 5 or 6 sessions a year – but a vital investment in the future of the church. If you could 'meet and greet', serve tea or help with craft activities please contact Alison Wood or Deborah Smith, 883611. We all have a lot of fun and you will get your evening meal as well! Deborah also needs coffee jar lids for the next Messy Church on December 13. Leave in the 'pigeon holes' in the porch room. Thank you in anticipation of your support

ANNUAL CAROL SINGING PARTY – AT Gloucestershire Royal Hospital on Thurs Dec 21, 6.45pm. Meet at the Hospital Chapel. Refreshments served at the end of the evening.

THIS WEEK

8.30am Eucharist (Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat) in the Lady Chapel, Parish Church 5.30pm Evening Prayer daily (Mon - Sat, 4.30pm on Fridays)

4TH MON 7.30pm Faith in our Time – Porch Room

5TH TUES 2-3.15pm Minchinhampton School – Porch Room

6TH WED
8am Eucharist, St Barnabas, Box
11am Eucharist (BCP) - Porch Room
2.30pm Wednesday Cuppa
5.30pm Junior Choir Practice – Porch Room
6-7.30pm Adult Choir Practice – Parish Church
7.30pm Stuart Singers to set up staging – Parish Church

7TH THURS
10-12pm U3A Art Course – Porch Room
11am Interment of Ashes – Charles Tudor – Parish Church
4pm Stuart Singers – Piano Tuner – Porch Room
7-9.30pm Stuart Singers Rehearsal - Parish Church

8TH FRI 7.30pm Stuart Singers Concert– Parish Church/Porch Room

9TH SAT 7.30pm Stuart Singers Concert– Parish Church/Porch Room

NEXT SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER – The Second Sunday of Advent

HOLY TRINITY, MINCHINHAMPTON

8am Eucharist
President: Revd Helen Bailey Preacher: Reader Linda Jarvis

10am Sung Eucharist
President: Revd Helen Bailey Preacher: Reader Linda Jarvis

3pm Stroud Masons Carol Service

5.30pm Said Evening Prayer
Office: Revd Helen Bailey

ST BARNABAS, BOX

9am Eucharist
President: Revd Sandy Emery Preacher: Reader Linda Jarvis

HOLY TRINITY, AMBERLEY

8am Said Communion
President & Preacher: Revd John Spiers

10am Non Eucharist
Second Sunday Team