

THE BENEFICE OF MINCHINHAMPTON WITH BOX AND AMBERLEY

Accept and share the generosity of God's love.

The First Sunday of Advent

2nd December 2018

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. There is one chalice of non-alcoholic wine available, please indicate at the altar if you would prefer this option. 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: Jeremiah 33. 14 - 16

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3. 9 - 13 Gospel: Luke 21. 25 - 36

ADVENT SUNDAY

Today we enter the season of Advent the time when Christians prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth and we also begin the new liturgical Church year, embarking upon a new gospel journey, through Luke. We think of a God who did not use dramatic interventions to save his sinful people, but came in the form of a baby, showing the compassionate and tender side of his nature. Today is filled with a sense of expectancy and this week's readings speak to the deep-seated longings of humanity for right and justice to triumph. They speak to our yearning for a final end to all the cruelty and misery of our world, some of which we all know from first-hand experience. Of course, it is serious and sombre stuff to be considering the winding-up of the entire created universe as we know it, and it is very necessary to be reminded of our need to be ready by the lives we are leading. Advent is just not about preparing for the festivities! Ordering the food, writing the cards, and buying the presents. Christmas ought to be about getting ourselves prepared spiritually. This is probably something we are not very good at. Advent is a time of expectant waiting and we are encouraged to explore how courage, resilience and patience are a difficult, yet crucial part of the Christian experience. We are encouraged to be alert and watchful; keeping ourselves ready. Yet waiting is one of the hardest things and usually we do it badly as it involves obedience. It is about being on guard, to not be distracted, to stay alert, to pray and to be ready by attuning our hearts and minds to God so that we don't miss the signs of His presence this advent season.

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 President & Preacher: Revd Sandy Emery
8.45am	Parish Breakfast - Porch Room
10am	Parish Eucharist - All Age President & Talk: Revd Sandy Emery
Hymns:	39, 35, 31, 28, 24
5.30pm	Advent Carol Service - Parish Church Revd Sandy Emery

ST BARNABAS, BOX

9am	Eucharist President & Preacher: Revd Alison Guy
Hymns:	27, 26, 31, 24

HOLY TRINITY, AMBERLEY

8am	Said Communion President & Preacher: Revd John Spiers
10am	Parish Eucharist President & Preacher: Revd John Spiers
5.30pm	Advent Carol Service Revd John Spiers

NOTICES –

ST, BARNABAS, BOX - Please note the date advertised in the Christmas Card of the Box Carol Service on Monday December 24 is *incorrect*. **Box Carol Service is being held on Sunday December 23 at 5.30pm.**

GRAVEYARD CLEAR UP - thank you to everyone who came to clear the graveyard over two days this month. A magnificent job's been done! If anyone wishes to do some clearing before the next group effort please feel free! Just have a word with a Church Warden, Howard or Mandy. Thank you to the people who do look after certain areas and especially the Wildlife group for their work at the top of the graveyard: we are all looking forward to the wildflowers in the Spring!

THANK YOU - to everyone who sent cards and well wishes and offers of support. I appreciate everything that you do for me. Glynnis told me not to worry because she knew you would all care for me. Love Sandy.

QUIET REFLECTION - at the beginning of the 10am Sunday Service there will be 5 minutes of quiet reflection. Can people please refrain from talking during this period. Thank you.

CHAIR SPONSORSHIP - a very special way to celebrate, commemorate or simply support the 6Ps appeal. 230 of the 300 Theo chairs in church have received sponsorship, some with plaques. There are just 70 left. If you are interested in sponsoring a chair please collect a chair leaflet from the back of church.

ARMCHAIR YOGA - Wednesdays after the 11am Service. Donations to 6Ps Appeal, contact Hilary Bellhouse on 885254

FOODBANK – needs tinned - vegetables, meat, spaghetti, fruit, fish, custard, tomatoes, soup, rice pudding, steamed puddings, potatoes, pulses. Small sugar, chocolate spread, peanut butter, jam, marmite, UHT fruit juices and milk, biscuits, instant coffee, pasta sauces, toothbrushes. NO BAKED BEANS PLEASE.

HORSFALL HOUSE CHRISTMAS FAYRE – Wednesday December 5 - from 9.30am. Come along and join us for a glass of mulled wine and mince pies. There will be Christmas stalls, grand raffle and refreshments – free entrance.

COACH TRIPS – Fri Dec 7. Award winning Bath Christmas Market and town centre shops. Contact Ian Jarvis for more info. Tel: 833131 www.abbeyhall.info

THEATRE - The trip to see **ALADDIN** will be on Wednesday January 2 2019. Details on the notice board. Thank you for the support Anne Brookes - 886210

THIS WEEK

8.30am Eucharist (Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat) in the Parish Church

5.30pm Evening Prayer daily (Mon - Sat, 4.30pm on Fridays)

3RD MON	7.30pm Faith in our Time - Porch Room
4TH TUES	9.30-4.30pm Organ Tuner - Parish Church 9.30 -12pm Experience Christmas Minchinhampton Primary Academy - Parish Church
5TH WED	8am Eucharist - St Barnabas, Box 11am Eucharist (BCP) – Parish Church 12pm Armchair Yoga – Parish Church 2.30pm Wednesday Cuppa – Porch Room 5.30pm Junior Choir Practice - Porch Room 6 - 7pm Adult Choir Practice - Parish Church
6TH THURS	9.30 -12pm Experience Christmas Minchinhampton Primary Academy - Parish Church 6.45-10pm Stuart Singers Rehearsal - Parish Church
7TH FRI	7.30pm Stuart Singers Christmas Concert - Parish Church
8TH SAT	7.30pm Stuart Singers Christmas Concert - Parish Church

NEXT SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER – The Second Sunday of Advent

HOLY TRINITY, MINCHINHAMPTON

8am	Eucharist President & Preacher: Revd John Ansell
10am	Sung Eucharist President & Preacher: Revd John Ansell
3pm	Masons Carol Service Revd Sandy Emery
5.30pm	Said Evening Prayer Office: Revd Sandy Emery

ST BARNABAS, BOX

9am	Eucharist	President & Preacher: Revd Ann Morris
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HOLY TRINITY, AMBERLEY

8am	Said Communion	President & Preacher: Revd John Spiers
10am	Non Eucharist	Second Sunday Team