



Christmas Hamper Project

As a Tuffley church and community project, we would like to provide 30 Christmas hampers for local families. Collection is now open. We want this to be a real gift/treat (there will be no shop brand goods) and we hope that by delivering it as early as possible, we will be saving these families some cash. You can choose any item from the list over the page. It's helpful to have the items bought in groups of 5. Churches will be informed of progress and any outstanding items towards the end of November. Please make sure you buy the items as specified and return to your church collection point **200 Reservoir Road by Sunday 6th December.**

Each hamper will contain

Packet of serviettes
Family size Christmas pudding
Hartleys or Rowntree jelly to make
Packet of Angel Delight mix
Bottle of Robinsons squash
Packet of Pringles crisps
Family packet of biscuits
Iced Christmas cake or yule log
Box of Cadbury's Roses
Tin of John West salmon
Box of breadsticks
Packet of Tetley tea bags
Packet of granulated sugar
Jar of jam
500g Packet of fusilli pasta
Jar of Cadbury's instant hot chocolate

Box of 6 mince pies
Jar Dolmio bolognese sauce
Tin of Twiglets or Cheeselets
Jar of Nescafe coffee
Chocolate selection packet
Tin of cured ham
Packet of chocolate fingers or mini rolls
Bottle of Schloer grape juice
Packet of Jacobs cream crackers
Box of Birds Eye trifle mix

You may select any number of items but we ask that you buy them in packs of 5 please. Please let Helen know what your selection is so we can keep track of our lists.

Thank you for helping our families at such a tough time.

Contact details for Helen:

tuffleypioneer@gmail.com or 07729 615993

Christmas Meals Project

We have been asked by the Diocese to join in with their Christmas Meals project run in conjunction with the Long Table who served so many meals during the first lock down. It is looking very unlikely that we will be able to serve our usual Christmas meal in the halls. The idea is that we order some delicious pre cooked and frozen Christmas dinners which are delivered to homes in the run up to Christmas. There is a suggested donation of £5 per meal, but those who receive them can pay as much or as little as they want. There are gluten free and veggie/vegan options. If you would like to find out more,, receive a meal for you and/or your family or join the delivery team, contact Sarah who can tell you more!

St Barnabas
Gloucester

w/b Nov 29th
2020

Church Matters

Hello to you all.

Welcome to this week's Church Matters Newsletter. This enlarged newsletter aims to keep church family in contact, share prayer requests, strengthen our discipleship and bring us closer together during this challenging time. If you are receiving this newsletter but aren't on the mailing list then please contact Sarah on 07534 720160 or revsarahtodd@gmail.com

Sunday November 29th | Advent Sunday

1030

Advent Together at Home with Communion

*Live streamed worship on Facebook and YouTube
Worship is followed by*

Zoom Coffee hosted by Sarah

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86000523052?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86000523052?pwd=ejhkdllsZERBa0lOMDBSRVBIT3lPQT09)
[pwd=ejhkdllsZERBa0lOMDBSRVBIT3lPQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86000523052?pwd=ejhkdllsZERBa0lOMDBSRVBIT3lPQT09)

Meeting ID: 860 0052 3052

Passcode: 254880

1500

Church Open for Private Prayer

*No need to book. A face covering will need to be worn.
The church will close at 1600*

1800

Evening Prayer on Advent Sunday

Next Week – Sunday 6th December—Advent 2

0945 Communion in Church

1115 Together at Home

1600 Messy Christingle

Readings for Sunday 29th November

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Mark 13:24-end

'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and

the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

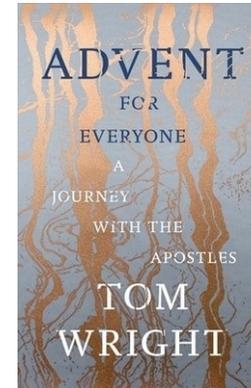
'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Readings for next week:

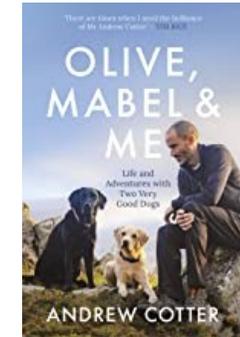
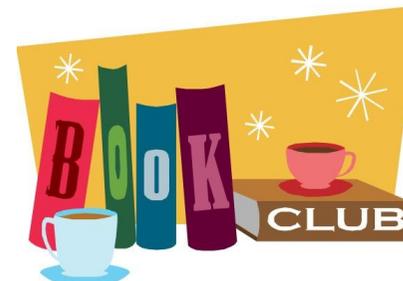
Isaiah 40 1-11 | Mark 1, 1-8



St Barnabas Lockdown Book Club



Join Tom Wright on a journey with the apostles, as he explores the New Testament themes of thankfulness, patience, humility and joy. Within each of these themes, Wright offers daily readings and meditations for a week, beginning with the Sunday reading in the Revised Common Lectionary, and ending with stimulating questions for personal reflection or group discussion. Distilled from selected passages in his popular For Everyone commentaries, these sparkling reflections take you on a journey of spiritual enlightenment, guiding you towards the wonder and joy of Christmas.



Andrew Cotter is one of the most recognisable voices in sports broadcasting. Cotter is one of the leading commentators on the BBC's golf, rugby, tennis and athletics coverage. He started his career in local radio in Scotland before moving to the BBC in London in 2000. He has also worked for Sky, BT Sport, ITV, Channel 4, ESPN and Eurosport. When not covering some of the world's great sporting events, he's usually up a mountain with his dogs.

In 2020, when many people felt despondent with lockdown etc., the wonderful Olive and Mabel took to the screen and brightened our days with their antics and the sports-like commentary of Andrew. They did make us laugh on bleak days. The book shows the depth of the understanding between Andrew and his 2 dogs, with the same humour. Dog owners will recognise many of the traits in their own companions. A lovely read .



NHS Responders

NHS Volunteer Responders has been set up by NHS England and Royal Voluntary Service, in partnership with GoodSam, to support the NHS and the care sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. Royal Voluntary Service is one of the largest voluntary service organisations in the country. We inspire and enable thousands of volunteers to give their skills, experience, energy and time to help the NHS and vulnerable people in the community.

Nasir works as a Computer Programmer, but as he works a few days from home, he has some flexibility in his day especially evenings and weekends. When Royal Voluntary Service called out for volunteers, Nasir was one of the first to put his hand up as he recognised the importance of supporting his community at this difficult time. Nasir said:

"As soon as I heard about the NHS Volunteer Responders programme, I knew it was something I wanted to be part of, and I really felt that it was my moral duty to help those in need. There are so many people whose lives have been made difficult by this pandemic, and if I am able to do something to help, then I absolutely feel that I must."

To find out more and to sign up, visit www.nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk/i-want-to-volunteer or chat to Edward Speyer. Contact the church office for his details.

Please pray and give thanks for all who are volunteering during this time of pandemic and for our NHS as they care for our country.



The Collect (Prayer for Today)

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

Reflection

Advent Sunday is the first day of the church's year—so I guess I should begin this reflection by wishing you a happy and blessed New Year. Much of 2020 has been a difficult year for us all. We have lost those we loved, learnt a whole new pandemic language of lockdown, bubbles, tiers and seen our day to day life transformed by restrictions and technology. Times are undoubtedly tough, and many have chosen to pull out the Christmas tree, get the decorations up earlier than ever. I can absolutely understand that. The message of Christmas, God with us, peace on earth, goodwill to all is one that the world badly needs.

Advent is the season that is often at risk of disappearing into Christmas as celebrations creep earlier and earlier. Whilst this is to a certain extent understandable, it is our loss—and I think this year especially, we need to encourage one another to engage with these precious weeks together.

This passage from the gospel of Mark sees Jesus using "apocalyptic language" which those of us who have been engaging in morning prayer have been wrestling with during our time in the book of Revelation. We are back to it

this coming week—hope to see you there. However the language in this weeks gospel passage isn't meant to frighten, it is meant to speak to a people leaving in uncertain and difficult times, longing for hope, restoration and way forward. That sounds strangely familiar and contemporary. Those words are also meant for us today.

The Tender Fig Tree

The image of the fig tree is used throughout the bible and here we are called as followers of Jesus to learn from it. The Fig Tree is late to bud, so when it does, the season is about change—there isn't long to wait. Some of us find metaphors harder to understand than others—Jesus uses them often.

We need to look hard for signs of this tenderness, leafing and budding in our lives, our churches and our world. By doing so, we will be attentive to God's timeframe and desires rather than being driven or guided by our own. Perhaps we need to cultivate our own tenderness so that we are able to be more sensitive to God's prompting and direction. A new season brings change and change is sometimes hard to deal with especially after we have experienced so much already.

Be alert

We need to be alert because we do not know when the season will change even if the signs are all around us. This alertness will help us live in our day to day. So let's live this season well together. Advent calls us to a watchful, wakefulness so we are able to respond to God's kingdom breaking in all around.

Revd Sarah



Please pray...

For our Church family and the wider Church:

Please pray for PCC as they gather for their vision afternoon on the 29th at the beginning of a new church year.
 Pray for our Messy Christmas and Messy Christingle Teams as they prepare for the coming weekend.
 Please pray for our brothers and sisters at St George's Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon as their vacancy continues.
 Our five overseas partner Dioceses

For our community and the world:

Pray for our older residents especially who are lonely or anxious
 Pray for Ross and the team at the Club at Tuffley Park as they continue to reach out to our local community.
 For all in positions of leadership that they might be governed by God's justice and mercy

For the Covid-19 pandemic

For peace amidst continuing uncertainty as move back out of lockdown into the revised tier system
 For our teachers and education support staff as they work to support pupils learning and wellbeing during the pandemic
 For health care professionals as they care for us all

For the sick and the bereaved

The sick: Janet, Joan, Noel, Julia, Kay, Mary, Phil, Terry, Kate, Clodagh, William, Alex, Michael, Rose, Peter, Sharon, Tina, Lionel

Parish office: **CLOSED**

office@stbarnabasgloucester.org.uk

Revd Sarah Todd (Vicar) | 07534 720160 | revsarahtodd@gmail.com

Myra Bowen-Davies (Churchwarden) | 01452 302508 | myrabowendavies@me.com

Katherine Kear (Churchwarden) | 01452 528508 | katherine@katherinekear.co.uk

Advent Light

This Advent we are being encouraged to decorate or place a light in our windows. As a child one of the first words that I probably read was 'light'. The text above the Chapel pulpit was "I am the light of the world". In Sunday School we often sang, "Jesus bids us shine, with a pure clear light, like a little candle burning in the night". I am sure many of you will remember this hymn.

As we were 'Chapel', we did not have candles or crosses, but the chapel was lit by gas lights that popped and spluttered and a coke stove to keep us warm. It was cosy. Each year we took our 'light', using a paraffin lamp, out into the lanes and pubs of the village, singing carols.

It always amused me that we visited the pubs which, as good T-Total Methodists, were normally out of bounds. We always received a warm welcome, and the people were always very generous putting money in our collection box.

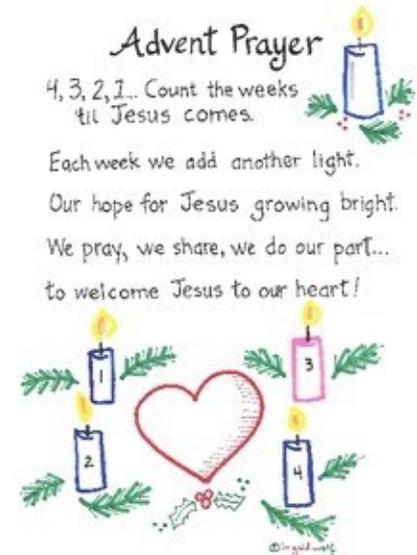
Lights feature in many faith's festivals. In Judaism lighting candles regularly feature in their worship, and in particular at this time of the year as they celebrate Hanukkah. Hanukkah is a Jewish festival commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire.

The Temple was purified and the wicks of the menorah miraculously burned for eight days, even though

there was only enough sacred oil for one day's lighting. To commemorate this miracle, a candle is lit each evening for eight days. Children love Hanukkah, as they play games and each day they receive a present. This year Hanukkah is 10th – 18th December. I will be lighting my menorah each evening as a link to my daughter and her Jewish family.

"In this world of darkness, we must shine, you in your small corner and I in mine."

Kate Ellis





On Wednesday 4 November, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and Bishop of London called the Church of England to prayer for the nation throughout the month of November. Use the resources below to pray each day at 6pm

Sunday

Families, friends and loved ones
We lift to God those we hold in our hearts, praying for their health, wellbeing and sense of hope. We pray that when loved ones cannot physically be together, they do not feel lonely. We ask for God's help in our communicating, our connecting and our caring.

Monday

Schools and Colleges, Children and Young people
We pray for all those involved in shaping young lives. We give thanks to God for the sacrifice and commitment of teachers and all those involved in serving children and young people in education. We pray that all might be nurtured and cared for and that all lives and flourish and that no one be overlooked.

Tuesday

Elderly, isolated and vulnerable
We pray today for those who are particularly vulnerable and isolated and pray for their protection and comfort. We hold before God those who care for them.

Wednesday

Businesses, the workplace and economic well being
We pray for the economic well being of this country. We remember before God those whose work is uncertain and those who have lost their jobs.

Thursday

The NHS and other key workers
Today we pray for the NHS and all key workers. We pray for their safety and ask that you encourage and strengthen them

Friday

National and local government
We pray for all those who are in decision making positions both locally and nationally and ask they be blessed with wisdom, discernment and good judgement.

Saturday

All who are grieving and all who are suffering mental or physical ill health
We bring to God all who are suffering in body, mind or spirit and those who grieve. We ask that they might know your kindness and feel you close by. We pray for those who feel stretched to breaking point and pray that they may know your peace which passes all understanding.



Last weeks answers! Guess who?

Guess who?

Did you recognise the little boy with the enigmatic smile who appeared in last week's Church Matters sheet? It was the **Revd Michael**. If you would like to send in a childhood photo to join in with this series, email it to the office. We have a bit of waiting list at the moment so apologies if you haven't seen your picture yet!

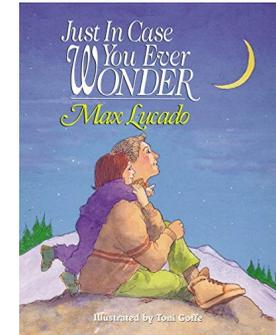
Giving at St Barnabas

We rely on donations to carry on with our ministry and ministry. Your gift can make a huge difference. You can give one off donations online through our website or by BACS; HSBC, St Barnabas Church PCC Sort Code: 40 43 42, Account Number 91283383. Contact our treasurer Sandra for more details about how to join the Parish Giving Scheme (01452 247513) Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

Church in Tuffley Advent Prayer Evening Wednesday 9th December 2020 7.30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82950113556>
Meeting ID: 829 501 1 3556

Do you have a favourite Advent Reading, poem or prayer that you would like included in the prayer evening? **If so send them to Nikki on georgeandnikki@tiscali.co.uk by 29th November**



Christian Children's Book Review

"Wrap your child (and yourself!) in the truth of God's love, care and protection"

It doesn't matter how old we are, living through the days we find ourselves in can be difficult, frightening and hard. This beautiful little book, spells out that God is always with us even at those times when we wonder what on earth is going on. A perfect gift for a child, this book is encouraging to all ages as it revisits the simple truth of a God of love who is intensely concerned about each and every one of us.

If you would like to find out more about the Christian faith, meeting new people and getting to know others better why not consider joining one of our small groups.

For more information contact Hilary on 07766 955057 or hilarypentycross@yahoo.com

News

Lockdown information

The church building and office is now closed and we will not be physically gathering for worship. Home groups and small groups cannot meet face to face. Marge our administrator has been furloughed. The Church will be open for private prayer this Sunday from 1500-1600. The church will reopen for worship next Sunday under Tier 2 restrictions.

Jam Jars We are going to be holding (God willing) a very special Nativity service on Christmas Eve and want to light up our church building and grounds. If you have any clean jam jars that would be suitable for placing a tealight in, could you bring them to vicarage (200 Reservoir Road) over the next few weeks. Thank you.

Need help getting online?

Are you confounded by your computer, perplexed by your phone or terrified of your tablet? Get in touch with Ellie on stbarnabascomms@gmail.com or get in touch with Sarah and we will try and get you a tech buddy to give you a hand

Messy Christmas - 5th December - we are doing an online Messy Christmas including Messy Christingle this year, more details to follow. anyone who can do a craft and video it, please contact Elaine on 07730 589608 or email emarsh6@sky.com. We have a lovely biscuit making craft but could do with some more.

Messy Christingle 6th December 2020 | 1600

We will be making and distributing packs for church family, White City and Tuffley, so all can join in with our Christingle Service where we will explore Jesus Light of the World. Please pray for Sue, Linda and the team as they prepare.

Christmas Online Fayre 12th December- Thank you to all who are busy baking, making and donating. We could do with some more donations for the silent raffle, thanks to all who have donated. Elaine would love to hear from you if you have or are able to make anything crafty or foodie. We have some gloves being knitted, masks being made and other items of crochet. So we would be very grateful for any donations at all, do let Elaine know (contact details above). Many thanks for your help as always. Please pray for Elaine and the team as they prepare.

Christmas Dinner

Would you like to have a ready made Christmas dinner delivered to you ready to cook on Christmas Day? If not do you know someone who does? Sarah has managed to secure funding to provide 20 delicious Christmas meals, 15 meat based, the rest vegetarian and/or gluten free. There is a suggested donation of £5, but give as much or as little as you can. Contact Sarah for more details. 1 meal feeds a hungry adult or two hungry children.

Guess who?



I think that this young lady should consider revisiting this wonderful hair style! Any ideas who this could be?

Would you like to take part in our "Guess Who" series? Send photos to revsarahtodd@gmail.com

Saints Quiz Answers

The Alms of St **Peter**; also known as **Peter's Pence**
Electrical weather phenomenon observed at sea; St **Elmo's** fire
Medicinal plant Hypericum perforatum; St **John's** wort
Feast day said to fix the weather for the ensuing forty; St **Swithun's** Day
Formal residence of the British Royal Court; St **James' Palace**
Cathedral of the diocese of Venice; St **Peter's Basilica**
Tidal island off the Normandy coast; Le Mont St-**Michel**
Caravaggio painting of the Damascene Conversion of St **Paul**
Neurological disorder Sydenham's chorea; St **Vitus'** dance

London landmark known as the Gherkin; 30 St **Mary's** Axe
English king who began construction of Westminster Abbey; St **Edward the Confessor**
Oranges and lemons/Say the bells of St **Clements**

Advent Music Quiz Fill in the missing lyrics..

1. O come, O come
2. Light of the world you stepped down into
3.for light we wait in darkness
4. These are the days of
5. Come thou long Jesus
6. In robes, I don't deserve
7. Claim the for thine own
8. Tell out my the greatness of the Lord
9.of the north rejoice!
10. Praise is hearts are turning to you

