

# ADVENT 3

*Sunday 17 December 2017*



## This Sunday

**8am**

President:

**Said Eucharist (BCP)**

Rev. Canon Bill Norman

**10.30am**

President:

Lay Deacon:

Preacher:

Readers:

Intercessor:

Junior Church:

Setting:

OoS:

Readings:

**Sung Eucharist**

Rev. Dr. Robert Tobin

Nicola Morton

Christopher Serbutt

Sarah McDermott

Graeme Calf

Rose Harley

Susanna Long

Joan James-McGowan

NEH 541

Advent

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end

I Thessalonians 5.16-24

John 1.6-8, 19-28

**6.30pm**

Officiant:

**Carols By Candlelight**

Rev. Dr. Robert Tobin

## Collect, Hymns and Readings

### **Introit:**

*On Jordan's Bank* (NEH 12)

### **Lighting Of The Advent Candle:**

John the Baptist, by his preaching  
and by water poured,  
brought to those who heard his teaching  
news of hope restored:  
'Keep your vision strong and steady,  
and be ready for the Lord.'

(tune: NEH 336)

### **Collect:**

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your  
messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of  
your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready  
your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to  
the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the  
world  
we may be found an acceptable people in  
your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

### **First Reading:**

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end

*A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah*

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the  
oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion -  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint

spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his  
glory.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devasta-  
tions;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup> For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;\*-  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant  
with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their descendants shall be known among  
the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD  
has blessed.

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of  
salvation,

he has covered me with the robe of  
righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a  
garland,

and as a bride adorns herself with her  
jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it  
to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness  
and praise

to spring up before all the nations.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*    **Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading:**

I Thessalonians 5.16-24

*A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalo-  
nians*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing,  
<sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is  
the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do  
not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the  
words of prophets,\* <sup>21</sup>but test everything;  
hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from

every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound\* and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*    **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual:** Psalm 126

Choir: The Lord has done great things for us and we rejoiced.

*All:*    **The Lord has done great things for us and we rejoiced.**

Choir: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with songs of joy.

*All:*    **The Lord has done great things for us and we rejoiced.**

Choir: Then said they among the nations, 'The Lord has done great things for them.' The Lord has indeed done great things for us, and therefore we rejoiced. Restore again our fortunes, O Lord, as the river beds of the desert.

*All:*    **The Lord has done great things for us and we rejoiced.**

Choir: Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed, will come back with shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them.

*All:*    **The Lord has done great things for us and we rejoiced.**

### **Gospel Reading:**

John 1.6-8, 19-28

The Lord be with you.

*All*    **And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

*All*    **Glory to you, O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.'<sup>\*</sup> <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' <sup>23</sup>He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' <sup>26</sup>John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Offertory:**

*Long Ago, Prophets Knew (NEH 10)*

### **Communion Anthem:**

*Come Thou Redeemer Of The World*  
(Willcocks)

### **Communion Hymn:**

*A Great And Mighty Wonder (NEH 21)*

### **Post Communion Prayer:**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;  
kindle in us the fire of your Spirit  
that when your Christ comes again  
we may shine as lights before his face;  
who is alive and reigns now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### **Dismissal:**

*Hills Of The North (NEH 7)*

## **Church Community News**

### **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

Postcards advertising our Christmas services are now available at the back church. If you are able to letterbox drop any of these, please take what you can.

Please note that is no service of Evening Prayer on either December 24 or December 31 and that there is no Wednesday Eucharist on December 27.

### **PARISH ADMINISTRATOR AND MUSIC DIRECTOR**

We have advertised to fill both these posts, and you will see the adverts on the church website and on the bulletin board at the back of church. If you know anyone who might be interested in applying, please send them our direction.

## **ADVENT COURSE**

As we continue our observance of Advent, please join us for our Advent course entitled, 'So what are you waiting for?' This week, the daytime session will meet as usual on Wednesday, 13 December after the Midweek Eucharist. Please note, however, that the evening session will meet on Tuesday, 12 December at 7.45pm, not on Wednesday. For those who have collected a course booklet but not yet paid for it, please ensure you bring £3.60 to the next meeting.

## **LECTIO DIVINA**

This is a reminder that the Lectio Divina prayer group meets the second Wednesday of each month. This is an opportunity to contemplate the divine presence through scripture, to be still, and to allow God to speak to you in new ways

## **TRAI DCRAFT**

The stall which ran last Saturday and Sunday took £110. Thank you to those who supported it.

If you would like to know more about Traidcraft and how to support it in an on going way please speak to Susanne.

## **Community News**

### **CHRISTMAS AT HOME**

'Christmas At Home' will take place at Balham Baptist on Tuesday December 19 from 11am to 3pm . To book your place speak to Rose Harley. Admission £5.

### **CHURCHES TOGETHER**

Continuing the pattern of a brief monthly prayer meeting, 6.00 - 6.30pm there is a gathering at Balham Baptist Church (Ramsden Road opposite the library) this coming Thursday 21st December and on Thursday 25th January at the Salvation Army Citadel (along the High Road almost to Oldridge Road). All are most welcome.

## **Box On The High Road**

During December we are collecting for CRISIS for the homeless. They work the whole year round, not just at Christmas, to improve the lives of homeless people. If you miss the mince pie sale please put your donation in the box.

# Coming Up

## **Sunday 17 December (Advent 3)**

- 8am Said Eucharist (BCP)  
10.30am Sung Eucharist  
6.30pm Carols By Candlelight

## **Monday 18 December**

- 8am Morning Prayer

## **Tuesday 19 December**

- 8am Morning Prayer  
11am Christmas At Home  
(at Balham Baptist)

## **Wednesday 20 December**

- 8am Morning Prayer  
9.30am Mary's Little Lambs  
12.30pm Said Eucharist  
1.15pm Advent Course 3  
7.45pm Advent Course 3

## **Thursday 21 December**

- 8am Morning Prayer

## **Friday 22 December**

*(Please note that this is the Vicar's day off)*

- 8am Morning Prayer

## **Saturday 23 December**

- 9.30am Morning Prayer  
10am Coffee and Chat
- 

## **Sunday 24 December**

### **(Advent 4 / Christmas Eve)**

- 8am Said Eucharist (BCP)  
10.30am Sung Eucharist  
4pm Crib Service  
11.30pm Midnight Mass  
*(please note that there is no service of Evening Prayer at St. Mary's today)*

## **Sunday 25 December (Christmas Day)**

- 8am Said Eucharist (BCP)  
10.30am Sung Festival Eucharist

## **Our Prayers This Week**

### **Our world:**

- For the peace of Jerusalem
- For the families of those killed in the Perpignan bus crash and all those who have been affected by this in any way

### **Our church:**

- That we find ways to explain the meaning of Christmas and welcome all those who come looking to find out

*A complete list of prayer requests can be found in the printed version of this pewsheet*

## Contact Details

### **Parish Priest:**

The Revd. Dr. Robert Tobin

T: 0208 673 1188

E: vicar@stmarybalham.org.uk

### **Assistant Priests:**

The Revd. Eileen Serbutt

T: 0208 767 8383

E: eileen.serbutt@btinternet.com

The Revd. Canon Bill Norman

### **Reader:**

Susanne Mitchell

T: 0208 675 5057

E: smitchtree@btinternet.com

### **SPA:**

Daphne Clarke

### **Churchwardens:**

Pauline Lacey

T: 0207 801 9281

Keith Holmes

T: 0208 677 8947

E: churchwardens@stmarybalham.org.uk

### **Director of Music:**

(Please contact Keith Mitchell

keithmmitchell@btinternet.com)

### **Administrator:**

T: 0208 675 3278

E: administrator@stmarybalham.org.uk

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Friday and Saturday 10-12

### **Lettings Officer:**

Anzo Francis

E: administrator@stmarybalham.org.uk

### **Website:**

www.stmarybalham.org.uk

Twitter: @balhamvicar

### **Pew sheet:**

For pew sheet notices, or to receive an

electronic copy of the pew sheet, please email:

christopher.serbutt@btinternet.com