

Welcome

Week beginning Sunday 14th December
Third of Advent

Dear Friends,

This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday. It is the Sunday in Advent when we are called to rejoice. We reflect on the great rejoicing there will be when our Lord comes again at the last days. Charles Wesley's great hymn, Lo He Comes with Clouds descending captures this joy and wonder and hope when our loving God will fulfil the restoration of all things. This is a day of great joy, a day of hope. In those churches where we like to light different coloured candles on Advent Wreaths; this is the day when we light the pink candle. Pink being the colour of joy. (the idea that pink is for girls is a Victorian concept lived out to the full in Barbie dolls. Until regency times; pink was a very blokey colour (probably being revived in the "Real Men Wear Pink" idea amongst some of my generation)

This week's gospel tells of St John the Baptist waiting in prison. He has heard rumours of the great deeds performed by Jesus and sent some of his disciples to ask; "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

Jesus replies; "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." In saying these things; Jesus confirms that he is the fulfilment of what the prophet Isaiah foretold. That tiny child born in the manger was and is the fulfilment of all our hopes and dreams. All we need to do to share in that hope is to listen and wait on him to see how he will transform our lives.

Pope John Paul II once told a group of young people; "Listen carefully to God's voice in your heart. Listen to his voice. Do not be afraid. Open up your hearts to Christ. The deepest joy there is in life is the joy that comes from God and is found in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He is the hope of yours. He is my hope. He is the hope of the world."

We live in a world where there are so many needing hope. Let us use this season of Advent to quieten our hearts and be open to him. If we can receive even a bit of that hope; we will be able to share a little of it this Christmas.

With best wishes to you all
Rev. Philip Elliott

Readings

Isaiah 35. 1-10 Matthew 11. 2-11

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Christmas Carols

Saturday 13th and 20th December

11.00am The shopping precinct
near Home Bargains, Littlemoor.

Sunday 21st December

4.30pm St Andrew's Church, Preston

6.00pm St Osmund's, Osmington

Monday 22nd December

6.30pm St Laurence' Church, Upwey

Wednesday 24th December

7.00pm St Nicholas' Church,
Buckland Ripers

Advance Notice

Benefice Wide Retreat Day

Saturday 10th January 2026

The Recreation Room, Hilfield Friary
Hilfield, Dorchester, DT2 7BE

Spend a day preparing for the year ahead, and
enjoying the beautiful Hilfield grounds.

(Bring suitable footwear and warm clothing)

There will be an opportunity to attend
communion in the chapel with the Hilfield
Community if you wish.

Cost £10.00 per head payable on the day..

Tea and coffee is provided.

Contact Pat Lock 07736387021 or

pralock52@yahoo.com

for further information and to book.

St Nicholas Church, Broadway

The Quangle Wangle Choir

3pm-5pm 20th December

£10 on the door

Accompanied children free.

07944617553 susanamalik@yahoo.com

Quiz & Curry Night

Saturday 10th January 2026

Osmington Village Hall

Veggie & non-curry options available

Teams of 6 £12.50 a head

07816832554 osmingtonmusic@gmail.com

Community Angels

Volunteers needed!

Do you have some time to spare?

Would you like to do something to help your
community?

The Community Angels are a group of
volunteers who provide support by
befriending, running errands, dog walking,
offering transport, etc.

If this interests you please contact:

Brian Sadler on

01305 834866

standrewsangels@hotmail.co.uk

Hall Hire

St Andrew's Church Rooms, Preston - 01305 837147 sachurchrooms4@gmail.com

The Mission Hall, Sutton Poyntz - 01305 835533

St Francis Community Room, Littlemoor - 01305 832532 anne_field@talk21.com