

# Welcome

Week beginning Sunday 28th December  
First Sunday of Christmas

## A Tale Of Two Gardens

God gave us all a garden once and walked with us at eve,  
that we might know him face to face with no need to believe.  
But we denied and hid from him, concealing our own shame,  
yet he still came to look for us and call us each by name.

He found us where we hid from him, he clothed us in his grace  
but still we turned our backs on him and would not see his face.

So now he comes to us again, not as a Lord most high  
but weak and helpless as we are, that we might hear him cry.

And he who clothed us in our need, lies naked in the straw  
that we might wrap him in our rags, whom once we fled in awe.  
The strongest comes in weakness now, a stranger to our door,  
the king forsakes his palaces and dwells amongst the poor.

And where we hurt he hurts with us and when we weep he cries,  
he knows the heart of all our hurts, the inside of our sighs.

He does not look down from above but gazes up at us  
that we might take him in our arms, who always cradles us.

And if we welcome him again with open hands and heart,  
he'll plant his garden deep in us ,the end from which we start.  
And in that garden there's a tomb whose stone is rolled away,  
where we and all we've ever loved were lowered in the clay.

But Lo! the tomb is empty now and, clothed in living light,  
his ransomed people walk with One who came on Christmas night.

So come Lord Jesus, find in me the child you came to save,  
stoop tenderly with wounded hands and lift me from my grave.

Be with us all Emmanuel and keep us close and true,  
be with us till that Kingdom comes  
where we will be with you.

## Readings

Isaiah 63. 7-9 Matthew 2. 13-23

## Collect

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

### The Chosen - Go Beyond The Show

We are hosting a  
WATCH PARTY

Every Tuesday evening starting at  
7pm on the 20th January.

St Francis Church,  
Littlemoor. DT3 6SJ

*The disciples were an unconventional group, none of whom would have scored very highly on a popularity scale. They were rough around the edges and ranged from salt-of-the-earth to downright sketchy, so it's a wonder such men responded to Jesus' simple words:*

#### **Follow me**

They became The Chosen and changed their lives forever and we want to share that experience with you!

Join us at our weekly watch party, where we come together to watch, discuss and grow as disciples together.

For more information & to book contact  
gailsamatha71@outlook.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

### 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

### 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