

Gospel

Mark 13: 24-37

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁴ "At that time, after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.



²⁶ Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send out his angels to gather his chosen ones from all over the world - from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.

²⁸ "Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that his return is very near, right at the door. ³⁰ I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene before all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.



³² "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. ³³ And since you don't know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert!

³⁴ "The coming of the Son of Man can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. When he left home, he gave each of his slaves' instructions about the work they were to do, and he told the gatekeeper to watch for his return.

³⁵ You, too, must keep watch! For you don't know when the master of the household will return—in the evening, at midnight, before dawn, or at daybreak.

³⁶ Don't let him find you sleeping when he arrives without warning. ³⁷ I say to you what I say to everyone: Watch for him!"

NLT

Mission Community Prayer

Loving God, receive our love, refresh our vision, renew our lives, so that together our Mission Community may witness to the truth of your gospel, build up our fellowship and deepen our commitment to grow in prayer. May our lives of discipleship draw others to follow Jesus Christ. Lead us into creative ways to serve the people of Devon with joy, to the glory of your name.

Amen



Christian Love in Action

3rd December 2017

ADVENT SUNDAY

Welcome to Worship

A very warm welcome to Bishop Sarah at St Peter's, Thornbury

11.00am **Confirmation Service with Holy Communion**,
St Peter's, Thornbury

6.30pm **Advent Carol Service**, All Saints', Bradford,



Readings

Isaiah 64: 1-9

I Corinthians 1: 3-9

Mark 13: 24-37

Collect

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

"May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace."

"1 Corinthians 1:3"

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PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The Mission Community: Revd. Jane Lucas and the Ashwater Benefice;
Revd. Elizabeth Burke and Hollacombe Church



Holy Cross Electoral Roll: Margaret Baker, Gillian Bowden, Mary Dayman,
Jan Luckhurst, Bob Luckhurst

Those who are ill: Maurice and Joan Thomas, Avis Radford, Dorothy Chandler,
Bill Smithers, Brian Ough

Aimi Clark and William Priest as they are confirmed at St Peter's, Thornbury

Highampton School; head teacher Angela Restall, lead teacher Jeanette Neale
and all pupils and staff

A spirit of tolerance and co-operation between different religious and cultural
groups in the UK

Rest in Peace: John Henry Cornish; Ian Forbes Wilson

December Diary

Mon 4th	8.00am	Morning Prayer , St Mary's, Black Torrington
Tues 5th	8.00am	Prayer Breakfast , The Rectory, Black Torrington
Wed 6th	8.00am	Morning Prayer , St Mary's Black Torrington
	12.30pm	Ladies Christmas Lunch , Half Moon, Sheepwash
Thurs 7th	7.30pm	Advent Study Group , The Rectory
	8.15am	Morning and Silent Prayer ,
Sat 9th	9.00am	Iona Holy Communion , St Mary's, Black Torrington
	10.00am	Benefice Saturday Church , Bradford Village Hall
Sun 10th	7.00pm	Compline , St Mary's, Black Torrington
	9.30am	Advent Holy Communion , All Saint's, Bradford
	11.00am	Advent Holy Communion , St Mary's, Black Torrington
	4.00pm	Christingle Service , St Peter's, Thornbury

The offering received from the Confirmation Service will go to
The Bishop of Exeter's Discretionary Fund

The offering from the Advent Carol Service will go to **Embrace**
helping vulnerable children in the Middle East



Bude Choral Society sings 'St Paul'

Saturday 9th December at St. Michael's Church, Bude - 7.30 p.m.
Do come along to hear this glorious work by Mendelssohn
Tickets £10.00 from David Fisher - 01409 261882

Advent Study Group—The Songs of Advent



During Advent the Study Group will be looking
at "Songs of Advent" by John Birch, which includes
the songs of Zechariah, Mary, the Angels and Simeon.



Please sign the list at the back of the church
and come along and join in what promise to be
four really enjoyable sessions!

Saturday Church "Scratch" Nativity
featuring.... You!

Everyone, whatever age, is invited to come dressed
as their chosen character from the Nativity story.

10.00 a.m. Saturday 9th December 2017
in the Stable at Bradford Village Hall.

Festive refreshments served
Iona Holy Communion



Everyone will be very welcome!

Reflection and Prayer for the First Sunday in Advent



It is time to speak out against injustice and oppression.
It is time to let God's healing power work through us to bring
comfort to those who are fearful and angry.

It is time for us to be proactive in sharing God's abundance
with the poor and oppressed.

*Lord, forgive our lack of patience and kindness towards others.
Help us to reform our attitudes, thoughts and behaviour.
Take away our fear of proclaiming our belief in you
and your message of love.*

Lighting the Advent Wreath

First Candle - The Candle of Hope

The Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the Old Testament ancestors of Jesus

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**



Leader: Let us pray

All: **God of Abraham and Sarah and all the Patriarchs of old, you
are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God,
and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth, to make our
hearts ready and to place our hope in you. Help us today and every day to
worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your hope
with others. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem.
Amen.**