



St John the Evangelist Newsletter



SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2021

ADVENT 1

If you wish to contribute to the next edition of the newsletter, please email office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk marking your email 'Newsletter Article' by **12 noon Thursdays weekly**.

Church Services (also on-line)

Saturday 27 November

10.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Sunday 28 November – Advent 1

10.30 Solemn Mass – Fr Brendan Clover
Preacher – Fr Noel Hector

17.30 Said Evening Prayer from the BCP

Monday 29 November

18.00 Mass - Fr Brendan Clover

Tuesday 30 November – St Andrew

10.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Wednesday 1 December

10.00 Mass – Revd Prebendary John Andrews

Thursday 2 December

12.30 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Friday 3 December – St Francis Xavier

10.00 BCP Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Saturday 4 December

10.00 Mass – Fr Brendan Clover

Sunday 5 December – Advent 2

10.30 Solemn Mass – Fr Brendan Clover
Preacher – Fr Mark Smith

17.30 Said Evening Prayer from the BCP
followed by Benediction

Words from Fr Brendan Clover

Dear friends,

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation, as the Church prepares to celebrate the coming (the *adventus in Latin*) of Christ in his incarnation, and also looks ahead to his final advent as judge at the end of time. The readings and liturgies not only direct us towards Christ's birth, they also challenge the modern reluctance to confront the theme of divine judgement:

*Every eye shall now behold him
robed in dreadful majesty.*

(Charles Wesley)

The Four Last Things – Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell – have been traditional themes for Advent meditation. The characteristic note of Advent is therefore expectation, rather than penitence, although the character of the season is easily coloured by an analogy with Lent. The anticipation of Christmas under commercial pressure has also made it harder to sustain the appropriate sense of alert watchfulness, but the fundamental Advent prayer remains 'Maranatha' – 'Our Lord, come' (1 Corinthians 16.22). Church decorations are simple and spare, and purple is the traditional liturgical colour. In the northern hemisphere, the Advent season falls at the darkest time of the year, and the natural symbols of darkness and light are powerfully at work throughout Advent and Christmas. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century, and is now a common practice. The Moravian custom of the Christingle has similarly enjoyed great success in Britain since the latter part of the twentieth century, with the encouragement of the Children's Society; Christingle services may take place before or after Christmas.

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The Mass readings for this Sunday:

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (*Reader: Debra*)

Psalms 25

R: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 (*Reader: Sandra*)

St Luke 21:25-28 & 34-36

Intercessor – Fr Brendan Clover

Daily Prayer (The Office)

Evening Prayer is said publicly in church every day (except Wednesday) at 5.30pm.

Morning Prayer is said at 9.30am when there is a 10.00am Mass.

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The Third Sunday of Advent was observed in medieval times as a splash of colour in the restrained atmosphere of Advent (*Gaudete* or 'Rose Sunday'), and the last days of Advent were marked by the sequence of Great 'O' Antiphons, which continue to inspire modern Advent hymns and meditations. So we begin with our Parish Mass on Sunday next, and in the evening, to try to capture that sense of watchfulness we have a service of readings and hymns built around the 'O' Antiphons. There is also an opportunity to collectively examine our consciences as we look to the coming of Christ.

May I wish you a happy and holy Advent,
Fr Brendan



The Vicarage Telephone Number is 01275 879617.

The Clergy's Recommendations for Advent Reading

Fr Brendan

My recommended Advent reading is John by Niall Williams.

'What invisible drama plays, what passes to and fro in the columns of air above them, none knows, but the disciples think: perhaps the time is arrived at last.'

Aged, blind and perilously frail, John the Apostle has walked ten thousand miles to tell of love. In a hundred years he has lived to witness sights and scenes that now cloud his mind. Of his followers, there are few remaining, banished with him to an island where they wait as storm clouds whip the island with rain. They wait for the world to free them from exile. They wait for signs that seem like they will never come.

But eventually a sign does come and together the disciples leave the island. They embark on a journey that will change their lives forever: a journey filled with purpose and fear which will test their belief - in love and in each other - to breaking point, and John must face his biggest battle yet.

Prebendary John

I would recommend To Be A Pilgrim by Basil Hume. It is an old book (1984 though it has been reissued since then) but still very relevant to anyone who seeks to follow Christ. Hume explores spirituality in a series of short thoughts, the sort of work you can dip in to and it is a great encouragement answering many of the questions any of us might face. It is an easy read.

It is published by St Paul Publications. ISBN 085439 231 9. It is available on Amazon price £9.99.

If anyone thinks they might like to read it but cannot get hold of it they would be welcome to borrow my copy.

Fr Robert

I'd suggest something like Tom Wright's 'Luke (or Matthew) For Everyone'. It is not academic, is easy to read and be bought for about £10 from Amazon.

Website

Please log into our website with as much frequency as you are able in order to bring it up the Google ratings...

It is <https://www.stjohns-clevedon.org.uk/>

The website is a dynamic tool, so please send any comments, criticisms or ideas to Fr Brendan at parishpriest@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk

Sick List

If you need to let the clergy know of anyone who is unwell and/or is needing pastoral care, please email office@stjohns-clevedon.org.uk or mention this to David or Betty, our Sickness Points of Contact (SPOC's), after the service outside of the church building. Any requests will be passed on to Fr Brendan and names will be added to the sick list.

WANTED!



St John's Church urgently needs to put in place a "meet & greet" team to be available for Sunday services and also for other special services. A smile and a friendly greeting go a long way towards making a visitor feel welcome and indeed our regular worshipers too. If you are willing to be part of a team please talk with me or email me on dianemw@blueyonder.co.uk and I will set up a rota.

It would also be good if more folk were willing to read a lesson on Sunday mornings, or indeed a weekday. If you would like to lead the Sunday intercessions Fr. Brendan is willing to run a workshop to enable that. Please contact me or Fr. Brendan if you are willing to help with any of these requests. Thank you, Diane.

Advent Saturday Church Opening

Saturday 4th, 11th and 18th December -10.30 am and 1.00 pm

The Church will be opened on the three Saturdays in December, to show it off our beautiful church to our local community. Light refreshments will be available. We plan to sell our draw tickets and the remains of the items from our church shop. It's an opportunity to raise some much needed funds as well.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help. Nicola & Kevin.

BREAD AND SOUP CHARITY ADVENT LUNCHES BEGIN THIS WEEK!



Advent Charity Soup Lunches begin this Thursday, 2 December, in the Vicarage at 1.00 pm (after the Market Mass, which begins at 12.30. Donations please, all proceeds will be sent to Clevedon Food Bank.

There is no need to book a place, though it would be useful for catering purposes to know how many people to expect! Please let Fr Brendan know of any special dietary requirements.



Chat and Craft Group is meeting every Thursday afternoon drop-in between 2 and 4pm.

Bring your own project along to work on, and chat to fellow crafters. Normally we have the kettle on, but while the electrics in the church hall are being worked on please bring your own drink. I will bring biscuits.

For more information talk to Sue at church or ring on 01275 877710.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(All subject to there being no changes in Covid restrictions)

- 4th Sunday of the month (not December) – Celebration Sunday – join us for a glass of wine / sherry and cake to celebrate any birthdays or anniversaries during the month.



CHRISTMAS MUSICAL EVENING

David Green is going to sing some Christmas songs and carols in the Church Hall at **7.00 pm on Friday 10 December**. This event will be free, but ticketed. Mince pies and mulled wine (or tea/coffee) will be available in the interval. Donations can be made to the Trussell Trust. Please let David know as soon as possible if you would like tickets – 07798 522918 or dmewin44@gmail.com

FUND RAISE AS YOU SHOP

We have registered St John's with easy fundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easy fundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

Although you may only raise a few pence with every purchase, these donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stjohntheevangelistclevedon/>

CHRISTMAS FUND RAISING



Please continue to support our Christmas fund raising by taking raffle tickets to sell to your friends, work colleagues, neighbours and relatives, not forgetting to buy some for yourself! Already people have been very generous with their promises of prizes. Please bring these to Church and give them to Debra, or to Judith. It would be very helpful if you would place a tick by your gift once you have delivered it to us. Similarly, please return the raffle ticket counterfoils with the corresponding amount of money and give them both to Judith.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE PRIZES

Any donations of prizes towards the Christmas Raffle will be gratefully received. If you have already marked something off on the list in Church – THANK YOU! Please give your gift(s) to Judith or Debra as soon as possible. There are still a few items on the list in Church if you would like to give something specific or feel free to supply any other prize.

On-line Giving

Here is the link to our on line facility:

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/b8e3af98-2c05-4dfb-bd27-570f15c91a21> this link has been added to our Website, our Church Near You page and all our YouTube and other online offerings including social media. Please feel free to share it with all your friends to help with the ongoing good work of our Parish and the exciting outreach plans for our near future (not to mention the maintenance of our beautiful building and Hall!!) The QR code appears further on in this newsletter.

Please follow us on our new website at: <https://www.stjohns-clevedon.org.uk/> or at www.achurchnearyou.com/church/111185/ or on YouTube 'St John's Clevedon' or on Facebook: St John the Evangelist Church, Clevedon or join our WhatsApp group.

For those a bit more technically minded, here is the QR code for our online giving. Simply scan the code with your smartphone QR scanner and be magically directed to our 'givealittle' page.



Here is the latest Quiz.

Thank you, Celia.

AND THE ANSWER IS?

1. The nickname of the early bicycle without tyres or springs.
2. In which year did Francis Drake go on his round the world voyage?
3. Which river rises in the Pennines and flows through Leeds?
4. In which Somerset city was TV cook Mary Berry born?
5. What was the name of the blind beggar Jesus healed outside Jericho?
6. Who was England's first Poet Laureate?
7. What was the former name of Taiwan?
8. With which art movement are Van Gogh, Cezanne and Gauguin associated?
9. Which instrument did a minstrel play?
10. When was the first Prayer Book in English issued?
11. Where in the USA is the Golden Gate Bridge situated?
12. What colour is the cue ball in snooker?
13. In which year was the war memorial at St. John's unveiled?
14. For how many years has radio's The Archers been broadcast?
15. What is the name of a flock of goldfinches?
16. In which city is Romeo and Juliet mainly set?

GORDON'S POSERS

a: Medication for a male bovine; b: Meet for radio amateur; c: Value place; d: Fine Feather Finish



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 12th December

3pm CHRISTINGLE SERVICE with St John's School

Sunday 19th December

5.30pm LESSONS AND CAROLS

24th December - CHRISTMAS EVE

5pm FAMILY CRIB/CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

6pm Vigil Mass

11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS

25th December - CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am MASS OF CHRISTMAS DAY

26th December - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

10.30am SOLEMN MASS

27th December - FEAST OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

6pm MASS WITH CAROLS

28th - 31st December

Mass at the usual times

1st January 2022 – MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

12.30pm MASS WITH CAROLS

2nd January – SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

10.30am SOLEMN MASS

5.30pm Evening Prayer & Benediction

6th January – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

19.30pm SOLEMN MASS and Vicarage Party

CHRISTMAS APPEAL



HELP SUPPORT YOUR FOODBANK WITH FOOD AND FUNDS THIS CHRISTMAS

In the week leading up to Christmas Clevedon, Nailsea, Portishead and Yatton foodbanks will be giving out Christmas hampers, and parcels to local individuals and families in crisis. Please support us by purchasing an item from the shopping list

DONATE FOOD

Help by donating an item or two from our shopping list to ensure we can provide food to help people in crisis.



DONATE MONEY

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.



SHOPPING LIST TOP TEN ITEMS

Christmas Cake
Savoury Biscuits
Hot Chocolate
Chocolate/ Sweets
Toiletries
Long Life Squirty Cream
Long Life Juice
Pringles
Soft Drinks
Tinned Salmon

Don't forget...
You can help transform
more lives with a
financial donation too.



www.clevedondistrict.foodbank.org.uk
info@clevedondistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales 1163153

Sunday 28 November 2021 – Advent 1

Be Alert

Bible readings: Luke 20: 29-36 (Luke 21: 25-36)

Questions

When have you had to be alert?

What does the reading say about being alert?

How can you get ready for Christ's return?

Prayer suggestion:

Ask God to help you be ready for his return

God, you have always been ready to help your people.

You will be with us whatever happens.

Help us know you are with us now.

Hurrah for the Lord is here:

His Spirit is with us.

Amen

This week's challenge

Spend five minutes each day listening to God

Activity suggestions:

- Activity sheet for 1st Sunday in Advent
- Puzzles, word searches and colouring in the Young Church Mag (YCM) for this week based on Luke 21: 25-36

If you do not have access to a printer and would like the activity sheets printed out and delivered to you, please contact me (Fiona) and I'll arrange for you to receive copies.

Good Luck from St. John's Sunday Club Team (Sue & Fiona)