



The Sunday Sheet *for* Advent 3 Sunday 14th December 2025

*A very warm welcome as we gather for the **Parish Eucharist**
An induction loop is provided.*

Gluten free wafers are available for those who need them. Please inform one of the
welcomers who will pass the information on to the clergy. Many thanks

Entrance Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake, and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home,
where such a mighty guest may come.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge, and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away,
like flowers that wither and decay.

To heal the sick stretch out thine hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth, and let thy light restore
earth's own true loveliness once more.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent doth thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Ghost for evermore.

*Charles Coffin 1676-1749
Tune: Winchester New*

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace be with you
and keep you in the love of Christ.

The priest gives an introduction to the Eucharist, followed by

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world:
A light no darkness can put out.

The third candle on the Advent Wreath is lit

Eternal God,
as the darkness beckons closer
and the night-time lingers on
we light a candle
to dispel the darkness of our hearts
and chase away the shadows of our minds
so that he of whom John the Baptist spoke
may find a bright and clear path
and find us ready and willing to welcome him, the Light of the world,
for he is Lord forever and ever. **Amen.**

The priest calls the people to penitence.

Advent Lord, prepare your Church afresh for the secret mystery of Christ's birth.
Forgive her sin and weakness; her inward-looking preoccupation with her own
concerns.
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Advent Lord, prepare your troubled world afresh for the secret mystery of Christ's
birth. Forgive our sin and weakness; our failure to see your light shining in the dark
places of the earth.
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Advent Lord, prepare our impoverished hearts afresh for the secret mystery of Christ's
birth. Forgive our sin and weakness, and enable us to point to your light.
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you and set you free from sin,
and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray:

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.**

Please Sit

James 5. 7-10

A reading from the letter of James.

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

For the word of the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Please Stand

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every loving heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thou gracious kingdom bring.

By thy own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone:
by thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley 1707-1788
Tune: Cross of Jesus

Matthew 11. 2-11

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the 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. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

This is the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

Please Sit

The Affirmation of Faith

Please Stand

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

The Intercessions

Please Sit

Appropriate responses may be used, for example

Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

Lord, hear us:
Lord, graciously hear us.

The Intercession ends with a suitable collect said by the priest, or the following

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

Please Stand

May the God of peace make you completely holy,
ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of the Lord's peace.

Offertory Hymn

Now, from the heaven's descending.
Is seen a glorious light,
The Bride of Christ in splendour,
Arrayed in purest white.
She is the Holy City,
Whose radiance is the grace
Of all the saints in glory,
From every time and place.

This is the hour of gladness
For Bridegroom and for Bride,
The Lamb's great feast is ready,
His Bride is at his side.
How blessed are those invited
To share his wedding feast:
The least become the greatest,
The greatest are the least.

He who is throned in heaven
Takes up his dwelling-place
Among his chosen people,
Who see him face to face.
No sound is heard of weeping,
For pain and sorrow cease,
And sin shall reign no longer,
But love and joy and peace.

See how a new creation
Is brought at last to birth,
A new and glorious heaven,
A new and glorious earth.
Death's power for ever broken,
Its empire swept away,
The p'omised dawn of glory
Begins its endless day.

James Quinn SJ 1919-2010
Tune: Stand up

The Thanksgiving

We celebrate together the gifts and grace of God.

**We take this bread,
we take this wine
to follow Christ's example
and obey his command.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God,
as your servant John the Baptist
prepared the way for the coming of your Son,
make us your servants ready for his coming
in these holy mysteries;
who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy
at all times and in all places to give you thanks, holy Father,
all-powerful and everliving God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Who humbled himself to live among us,
taking human flesh,
fulfilling the plan you formed long ago
and opening to us the way to salvation.
We watch and wait for that day
when our Lord Jesus Christ will be revealed,
when justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps,
that when he comes in glory, with healing in his wings
we may inherit the promised salvation in which we dare to hope.

And so with the hosts of angels and all the company of heaven
we proclaim the glory of your name
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy, holy,
Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.
And we lift our hearts before you
as a token of our love.
Holy, holy, holy, holy.**

**Gracious Father, gracious Father,
Blessed is the one who comes to us
in your name.
And we lift our hearts before you
as we give you thanks and praise.
Hosanna in the highest.**

All praise and thanks to you, true and living God,
Creator of all things, Giver of life.
You formed us in your own image;
but we have marred that image and fall short of your glory.
We give you thanks
that you sent your Son to share our life;
you gave him up to death that the world might be saved,
and you raised him from the dead
that we might live in him and he in us.

Sanctify with your Spirit this bread and wine, your gifts to us,
that they may be for us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread,
and when he had given thanks
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you:
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way after supper he took the cup,
and when he had given thanks
he gave it to them, saying,

Drink from this, all of you,
for this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins:
do this as often as you drink it
in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come in glory.

As he has commanded us, Father,
we remember Jesus Christ, your Son.
Proclaiming his victorious death,
rejoicing in his resurrection
and waiting for him to come in glory
we bring to you this bread, this cup.

Accept our sacrifice of thanks and praise.
Restore and revive your people,
renew us and all for whom we pray
with your grace and heavenly blessing,
and at the last receive us with all your saints
into that unending joy promised by your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Silence is kept

Please Sit

Let us pray with confidence to the Father:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Communion

The priest breaks the bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body
for we all share in one bread.**

We sing

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

The sacrament is administered with these words:

The body of Christ. **Amen.** The blood of Christ. **Amen.**

All those who are baptised (Christened) are welcome to receive Holy Communion today. Baptised (Christened) children are welcome to receive holy communion at the discretion of their parents.

If you are not receiving you are welcome to come forward for a blessing but please bring this leaflet with you as a signal to the priest.

Hymn at the end of Communion

Earth was waiting, spent and restless,
with a mingled hope and fear,
faithful men and women praying,
'Surely, Lord, the day is near:
the Desire of all the nations —
it is time he should appear!'

Then the Spirit of the Highest
to a virgin meek came down,
and he burdened her with blessing,
and he pained her with renown;

for she bore the Lord's anointed
for his cross and for his crown.

Earth has groaned and laboured for him
since the ages first began,
for in him was hid the secret
which through all the ages ran —
Son of Mary, Son of David,
Son of God, and Son of Man.

Walter Chalmers Smith 1824-1908
Tune: Picardy

Silence is kept

The Sending Out

Please Stand

Post Communion Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:
his love is everlasting.

God of mercy and power,
whose Son rules over all,
grant us so to live in obedience to your will,
that at his appearing
we may be raised to eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Christ the Sun of righteousness shine on you and scatter the darkness from before you.
And the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Final Hymn

Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.

Philip Doddridge 1702-1751
Tune: Bristol

Notices

Refreshments. Please do join us for refreshments after the service if you can.

Praying for Growth. Please pray for the growth and renewal of the Church here in this place. Here is the Leading Your Church into Growth Prayer:

*God of Mission,
Who alone brings growth to your
Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship,
And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers,
In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Community Fridge takes place every Sunday from 4-5pm at the Parish Church.

Sunday Sheet. Please take this sheet home with you for the notices for the week and to pray for what is happening in the life of our Church.

Christmas Coffee & Mince Pie Morning will take place at the Parish Church on Saturday 20th December from 10am to 1pm. A warm festive welcome to all.

Christmas Services. A card giving details of all the Christmas Services in the Mission Area is available. Please do take one for yourself and others to pass on to friends and neighbours.

Carols by 1000 Candles an evening of Christmas Music with the Cathedral Choir on Friday 19th December.

Admission £10 on the door. Children free. Proceeds to the work of the Cathedral Choir.

Christmas Services – a warm welcome to all:

Sunday 21st December:

6pm Lessons and Carols at St Mary's Cefn

Christmas Eve:

4pm Christingle and Crib Service at the Parish Church

7pm Nine Lessons and Carols at the Cathedral

11.30pm Midnight Mass at the Cathedral

Christmas Day:

9.30am The Parish Eucharist

9.30am Cefn Eucharist

11am The Cathedral Eucharist

Sunday 28th December:

10.30am Mission Area Eucharist at the Parish Church

Ways of Giving to the work of the Parish Church. We are very grateful to all those who contribute financially to the life and witness of our Parish. There are various ways to do this:

1. The Collection plate near the entrance to the Church
2. Setting up a Standing Order. Contact Dave Bradley or Marion Hughes for the bank details
3. Gift Direct. Set up regular giving or make a one off donation.

For Gift Direct you can use the QR code below. Thank you very much.



The Week Ahead

15th Monday – Advent Weekday

9am Morning Prayer
9.30am Holy Eucharist
10.30am Ysgol Glan Clwyd Service
5pm Evening Prayer

16th Tuesday – Advent Weekday

9am Morning Prayer
5pm Evening Prayer
6pm Holy Eucharist
7.30pm Ysgol Glan Clwyd Service

17th Wednesday – O Wisdom!

9am Morning Prayer
10.30am Holy Eucharist
2pm MU Family Group Advent Service
at the Parish Church
5pm Evening Prayer
7.30pm Three Phantoms Concert

18th Thursday – O Adonai!

9am Morning Prayer
10am Holy Eucharist *at the Parish Church*
10.45am Prayer Group *at the Parish Church*
5pm Evening Prayer
7.30pm Richard & Adam Concert

19th Friday – O Root of Jesse!

9am Morning Prayer
9.30am Offeren (Welsh Eucharist)
11am Funeral of Yvonne Vernon *at the Parish Church*
5pm Evening Prayer
7pm Carols by 1000 Candles with the Cathedral Choir

20th Saturday – O Key of David!

9am Morning Prayer
5pm Evening Prayer

21st Sunday – Advent 4

9.30am The Parish Eucharist
11am The Cathedral Eucharist
3.30pm Choral Evensong

Contact:

Parish Church: 01745 535957

Fr Rex: 07393 639813

Parish Church Website:

www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk

Today's Readings

Isaiah 35. 1-10

Isaiah offers words of encouragement and reassurance to the people in exile, prophesying their triumphant return to Zion.

Psalms 146. 5-10

James 5. 7-10

The writer urges the people not to judge one another, and to wait for the Lord's coming with the same patience that the farmer exercised when waiting for the ripening of his crop.

Matthew 11. 2-11

John the Baptist, in prison, seeks reassurance as to Jesus' identity. Jesus challenges the crowds concerning John and the work God called him to do.

