



St. Cuthbert's Church, Ormesby Bulletin for Sunday November 29th



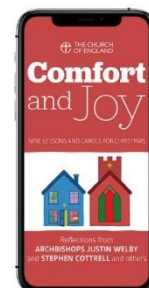
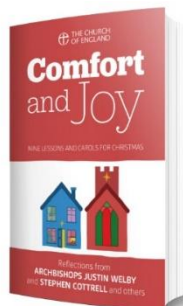
TODAY IS ADVENT SUNDAY

Welcome to the final issue of our current lockdown bulletin. We hope you have enjoyed the bulletins and have found them useful while we were unable to hold our regular services in church.

While we are in lockdown, St. Cuthbert's is open for private prayer at set times during the week. At the moment we will be open on Sunday mornings between 11:30 and 12:30 and Wednesday mornings between 10 and 11. We will resume our Sunday Celebration of H.C. on Sunday 6th. December

Comfort and Joy.

The Church of England's meditations for Advent Sign up to receive your free copies.



<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/preparing-advent-christmas-2020-comfort-and-joy>

The Church's website and the St Cuthbert's Facebook page are good ways of keeping in touch: links below.

<https://stcuthbertsormesby.org.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/stcuthbertsormesby/>

If you are reading this from a paper copy and do not have access to the Internet, the following names and phone numbers may prove useful. Please phone if you need help or information.

Deacon:	Revd. Janet Caldwell	01642 254790
Reader-in-training:	Elizabeth Furnell	01642 293108
Church Warden:	Janet Danks	01642 321347
Church Warden:	Elaine Boyle	07794621752

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Don't forget that there is an online service at 9am every Sunday. Use this link to The C of E's website where you will find this service and also many other helpful items.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Whatever you choose to do, you can find the Bible readings for this Sunday on the next page of this newsletter.

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE ADVENT WREATH



The Advent Wreath has four red or blue candles in a ring around a white or gold candle. Alternatively, there may be three purple candles, reflecting the liturgical colour for Advent, with a pink candle for the Third Sunday, when rose-pink vestments are traditionally worn. The first candle is lit on Advent Sunday; additional ones are lit, one on each Sunday, and the white or gold one on Christmas Day.

The new candle each week may appropriately be lit during the Prayers of Penitence. In this case the material entitled 'Prayers of Penitence at the Advent Wreath' is used. Alternatively, the candles may be lit after the Gospel Reading, before the Peace, or after Communion, where the prayer(s) used at the lighting becomes a natural Post-Communion prayer. All five candles may appropriately be alight during services through the Christmas season.

There are several traditions about the meaning or theme of each candle. The scheme that accords best with the Common Worship Principal Service Lectionary is:

- Advent 1 The Patriarchs
- Advent 2 The Prophets
- Advent 3 John the Baptist
- Advent 4 The Virgin Mary
- Christmas Day The Christ

Each of the four Sundays then reminds us of those who prepared for the coming of Christ. 'The Patriarchs' can naturally focus on Abraham, our father in faith, and David, the ancestor in whose city Jesus was born. 'The Prophets' gives an opportunity to reflect on the way the birth of the Messiah was 'foretold'. John, who proclaimed the Saviour, and Mary, who bore him in her womb, complete the picture.

Thank you Janet C. (and Wikipedia) for this.

The Collect for Advent Sunday

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing
can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Bible Readings for Advent Sunday



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Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

These readings are all from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. (NRSV)

A few words from our Archdeacon

The Venerable Dr. Amanda Bloor.

Archdeacon Amanda was to have preached the sermon at Ormesby this Sunday Church, but of course, lockdown intervened. Instead she has kindly sent us the following reflection.

Counting the days



I always look forward to Advent, but this year I’m more excited than ever to be entering the season. After the strange year we’ve been living through and the uncertainties of lockdown, regional tiers and restrictions on worship, the thought of a defined period of time with a clear outcome – we will, no matter what or how, be celebrating the birth of Christ on December 25th – seems more attractive than ever.

But of course, Advent is much more than a countdown to Christmas Day. It's certainly more than calendars filled with chocolate or other consumables (did you know that it's possible to buy an Advent calendar containing a piece of diamond jewellery for each of the 24 days, a snip at a mere £100,000?). Advent helps us to rebalance our spiritual lives, to think about who we are, what we believe, what we need to change and what it is that we hope for. That's why in Christian tradition, Advent reflections have focussed on the four last things: death, hell, heaven and judgement. We rejoice in the birth of the baby who will save us all, but we remain in awe of him too.

The reading from Isaiah that's set for this first Sunday in Advent asks that God might 'tear open the heavens and come down'. Well, that's precisely what we're preparing for; the joy and the wonder of Jesus Christ, God amongst us. But as today's Collect reminds us, Jesus will come again 'to judge the living and the dead' so we need to be ready to meet him at that last day. Advent helps us to do that work as we reflect and pray. It's a good time and a necessary one.

Happy Advent!

Month of Prayer



The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and a number of senior church leaders invited Christians across the nation to participate in the month of prayer when a second lockdown in England came into force.

“We call upon the Church of England to make November 2020 a month of prayer for our nation. We know that we are in the faithful hands of the risen Christ who knows our weaknesses, tiredness and struggles and whose steadfast love endures forever.”

For details again go to the website

<https://www.churchofengland.org/>

The prayer for this coming week

Loving God,
your Son Jesus Christ came that we might have life and have it abundantly;
pour out your blessing upon our nation;
where there is illness, bring your healing touch;
where there is fear, strengthen us with the knowledge of your presence;
where there is uncertainty, build us up in faith;
where there is dishonesty, lead us into truth;
where there is discord, may we know the harmony of your love;
this we ask in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Click the link below to find more prayers.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/call-prayer-nation#na>

The Daily Call to Prayer



You may have heard a bell ringing out at 6pm every day from our church tower during November. Ian Hart, one of the St Cuthbert's bellringing team kindly volunteered to join with ringers from churches all over the country to call people to prayer at this time during November. Why not use the resources on the website listed above to join with others in a prayer each day at 6pm? (In fact, why stop on 30th November!)

Safeguarding

A few words from Denise Lewis, our safeguarding officer.

Can I remind everyone who has a DBS form that you are required to complete the safeguarding training. Clergy and church wardens need to complete this to level 3. All others should complete at least the basic level. The training should be renewed every three years.

Go to safeguardingtrainingcofeportal.org. You will need to register to log into the site.

Useful telephone numbers
Childline 08001111
NSPCC 08088005000
Women's Aid 08088029999
Samaritans 116123
Mind 03002233393

Denise would also like to share items from the Redcar and Cleveland Magazine which you might not have seen if you live in the Middlesbrough section of the parish

Redcar and Cleveland Council Magazine.

The Redcar and Cleveland council magazine was delivered to me this week. This was an exceptionally good issue. Not only did it have the waste collection dates for the Christmas period but also some very useful places to contact for help during this pandemic.

Money trouble due to COVID?

Got to www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk Click on Coronavirus-Council Tax and Benefits for help with council tax.

You can also contact the Citizens Advice on 01642 030000.

Help beat loneliness: Age UK are looking for "befrienders" to spend virtual time to chat with a vulnerable person by phone or online. Contact 07834 181190

Cleveland Fire Brigade have launched its annual Stay Safe and Warm campaign which provides a free home assessment. There are options to borrow heaters, thermal blankets and funding for boiler repairs. Contact them on 01429 874063.

AND FINALLY: THE GREAT DOORSTEP SWITCH ON!

Are you going to join in? Due to lockdown restrictions we can't go to see the switching on of the area's Christmas lights but that doesn't mean we will miss out. On **Thursday 3rd December The Great Doorstep Switch On**. Get your Christmas lights ready, in the garden or at your windows. Switch on your lights at 7pm or watch online on the Redcar and Cleveland website.

More deals in the magazine.

Stay safe, stay alert.

Denise



Christmas Charity Appeals

Full Details appeared in the bulletin for **Nov 8th** and there is also a poster on the Church notice board. This year we are collecting items for the Food Banks and The missions for Seafarers (not shoeboxes because of the virus).

Don't forget we are always collecting items for the women's refuge, mainly toiletries.

Boxes are at the back of the church and you can drop off your gifts while the church is open for private prayer or save them up for when (we are hoping) the church reopens for services.

We are asking for shaving cream, lip salve, chocolate, chocolate and yet more chocolate, fingerless gloves, canned meat and fish, treats, soap, cereals, washing powder spare Christmas cards and lots more.

Giving to St. Cuthbert's

Are you saving money by not having your hair done or going out for coffee or lunch? We can find a use for those spare pennies!

Don't forget you can still donate your weekly offering even if you aren't handling cash. Standing orders and bank transfers are always welcome or if you are popping in for private prayer you can use the card machine at the back of the church. Check the church website for details.

Cuthbert Bear's Corner



The Bible reading today is from the book of Isaiah chapter 2 verses 1 -5

Isaiah writes:

“This is the message that I was given about Judah and Jerusalem:

In the future, the mountain with the Lord's temple will be the highest of all.

It will reach above the hills; every nation will rush to it.

Many people will come and say,

“Let's go to the mountain of the Lord God of Jacob and worship in his temple.”

The Lord will teach us his Law from Jerusalem, and we will obey him. He will settle arguments between nations.

They will pound their sword and their spears
into rakes and shovels they will never make war
or attack one another.
People of Israel, let's live
by the light of the Lord."

(from the CEV (Contemporary English Version) of the Bible
courtesy of <https://www.biblegateway.com>) (*If you find this
reading a bit hard to understand, ask a grownup to explain
it to you*)

Isaiah was a prophet; he spoke of what he saw for Judah and
Jerusalem. He saw a mountain which was taller than all others.
At the top was the Lord's temple. All people from many different
countries will come to it. The Lord will judge the nations and
settle their disputes with one another. There will be no wars,
weapons will be destroyed and soldiers will no longer be
trained to fight.

He said, "Come descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of
the Lord."

Activities

1. What a fantastic thought not to have wars between nations.
We are lucky enough not to live in a country where there is war
but we still have arguments with brothers and sisters and with
friends. When you next have an
argument, think, what can you do
to stop it and make things better.

2. What do you think the Lord's
temple will look like? Will it be
shining out for everyone to see;
might it be very colourful or just
very ordinary? Build a temple.

You could use a cardboard box or perhaps
some old newspapers rolled up for the walls. How tall can you
make your temple?



Denise

Carol adds:

If you are looking for something else to do, maybe you would like to make your own advent wreath and light the candles every Sunday at home. We do this in our house at teatime, one candle on Advent Sunday, two the next and so on until we light all five on Christmas Day. You don't have to have Oasis or fancy candlesticks; you can even use tealights on a plate (a strong one-make sure it's on a heatproof mat!) and bits of greenery from the garden or that Autumn walk in the woods.

A proper Christmas at last?

It looks as though there really will be a vaccine by the end of the year and if all goes well, by next Christmas we shall be able to celebrate the season properly again.

Until then, we shall just have to practice our carols in private. Even the Salvation Army have had to give up their band performances because of Covid so they won't be round this year.

I wonder if anyone is thinking of organising carol singing on our doorsteps in the manner of the Thursday clapping. It would be lovely wouldn't it to get out and join the rest of the street, with our torches or lanterns perhaps on Christmas Eve?

**And now for (as they say) for something completely different –
The Silly Section
or
Camel Corner**



Here are some really awful riddles and jokes from our resident camels who will be beginning their journey westwards round about now. Their masters have spotted that comet in the sky and have started to source their gifts. (How did they manage before Amazon?) but the camels are feeling a bit annoyed that they won't be able to take part in the Children's services this year. They had even started to practice their camel dance so I thought we might indulge them a little.

Fatima: What's Tariq's favourite carol?

Leila: I think it's "Oh camel ye faithful"

Tariq: I know what used to be your favourite nursery rhyme Leila.

Leila: Which one?

Tariq: Humpty Dumpty of course

Fatima: What cheese do camels like best?

Tariq and Leila We don't know, tell us

Fatima: Camel-bert of course, and what do we like for pudding

All together: Just des(s)erts!

Please forgive Tariq,(the macho one) Leila,(the flighty one) and Fatima (she's the sensible one) for not taking things too seriously, after all they haven't had their Epiphany yet, and, well ,they are only camels after all!



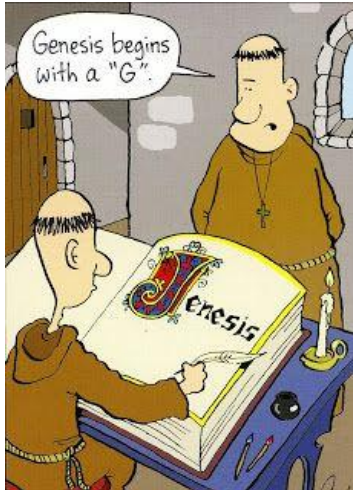
(Q. Which yard built the ships of the desert?

A. Cammell Laird!)

Contributions wanted!

Let's hope we won't need any now, but should we go back into lockdown ---,

If you want to send in a piece of writing or comment on any of the subjects raised in the bulletin, please email it to me at: carolmbruce@yahoo.co.uk



If you read the printed version you can post your contributions to Janet C. or anyone on the PCC and they can forward them to me.

If you know someone who might like to read the bulletin, but hasn't got a computer, would you be able to print one out for them and put it through their letterbox? Or email me at the above address and I will arrange to have one delivered.

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