



**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday  
of Advent**



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**Welcome!**

*We are delighted to see you, especially if this is your first visit.  
 Please do join us for refreshments at 10.30am in the Hall.*

**Sunday 8 December**

**BACK IN CHURCH through the West Doors!**

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	<b>Church</b>
10.30am	Coffee	<b>Hall</b>
11am	United Family Service	<b>Church</b>
12.30pm	Baptism of Arlo Williams	<b>Church</b>
5.30pm	'Route 66' Youth-Led Service	
<b>During the Week</b>		
Mon	9.15am Alpha Course	<b>Ark</b>
Tues	9am – 11.30am Open House Toddlers group	<b>Lounge</b>
	12.30pm Matts Knits	<b>Lounge</b>
Wed	9.00am Holy Communion <i>followed by coffee</i>	<b>Church</b>
	10-12noon Open Church Coffee Morning – all welcome	<b>Lounge</b>
	7.30pm St Matt's Cats	<b>Pine</b>
Fri	10-10.30am Prayer Walk to bless the church – everyone welcome	
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> &amp; Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December Celebration Open Weekend</b>		
Sat	10am-4pm Church open – see separate notice	<b>Church</b>
	6.30-9.30pm Barn Dance	<b>Church</b>
Sun	11am Church Family Communion	<b>Church</b>
	12.15pm Coffee in the Church Café	<b>Church</b>
	1pm Church Family Celebration Lunch	<b>Hall</b>
	6.30pm Carol Service and dedication with Bishop Nick <i>followed by mulled wine and mince pies</i>	<b>Church</b>

**Collect**

Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds,  
 that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again  
 as judge and Saviour  
 we may be ready to receive him,  
 who is our Lord and our God. Amen

**Thanks go to...everyone**  
 who helped to clean the  
 church and get it ready  
 for Sunday ☺



## Readings

### **Romans 15: 4-13**

<sup>4</sup> For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

<sup>5</sup> May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, <sup>6</sup> so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed <sup>9</sup> and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;

I will sing the praises of your name.'

<sup>10</sup> Again, it says,

'Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.'

<sup>11</sup> And again,

'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;

let all the peoples extol him.'

<sup>12</sup> And again, Isaiah says,

'The Root of Jesse will spring up,

one who will arise to rule over the nations;

in him the Gentiles will hope.'

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Matthew 3: 1-12**

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

'A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

"Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.'"

<sup>4</sup> John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt round his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptising, he said to them: 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." I tell you that out of these

stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>11</sup> 'I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.'

For our prayers and praise this week	
Sun	Praise God for being able to worship in the Church today. Thank God for the contractors and pray that they will finish the outside soon.
Mon	Praise God for <b>Stephen Yates' Ministry with us and now for his appointment as Rector in Brixham</b> . Pray for his last months with us, that we may make them good for him and his family. Pray for the work that <b>Victoria</b> has been doing amongst the young people, and pray for her successor.
Tues	Pray for all the <b>Staff Team</b> that they may work well together in these next months and onwards.
Wed	Remember all who have problems in body soul or spirit. May they find their answers as they trust in Jesus.
Thurs	Pray for the country as we all go to the polls to elect our new Members of Parliament. <b>Pray for all those who are elected</b> .
Fri	Pray that people will volunteer to help over the weekend.
Sat	Pray for this <b>Celebration Weekend</b> . Pray that the community will "come and see" and that they will come to some of the services.
Sun	As we begin a new stage in the Church life, may we be true witnesses. Pray for <b>Bishop Nick</b> as he dedicates the church and attends our <b>Carol Service</b> .

## What's on and News



**Celebration Weekend...**



Have you bought your tickets for the Barn Dance yet?

Sign up today for the church family celebration lunch.



Christmas Cards – for your cards to the whole congregation, a noticeboard will be available from 22 December.

## Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 December

There will be activities during the day on Saturday – stalls, crafts, inflatables, entertainment, refreshments followed by a Barn Dance in the evening, and on Sunday there will be our carol service with Bishop Nick at 6.30pm. We'd love for as many people as possible to come.




**Barn Dance tickets** are now on sale! Get yours today (or from the office during the week). Saturday 14 December at 6.30pm. Yee ha!



Wreath Making for Christmas – come and have a go on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> at the Launch. Workshops at 10.30am/12pm/1.30pm/3pm Tickets £5 All materials provided. Book your space now! Contact Lena Fearnley 07903 376340 or lenafearnley@googlemail.com

**Winter Allowance** If you receive a winter allowance from the Government, you may wish to donate it to the Wellspring Project or Torquay Community Larder. Please complete a gift aid form if relevant.

 **Carol singing** around the residential homes week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> December. Please join us – all very welcome whatever your standard of singing! Sign-up sheet in the hall.

**The Yates' are on the move!** Stephen has been appointed to be Team Rector in the Brixham Team Ministry from the end of March 2020. Please pray for Stephen and Victoria and their family as they prepare for this new chapter in their life together.

### Christmas Services:

15 Dec @ 6.30pm Carol Service  
24 Dec @ 5pm Christingle Service  
24 Dec @ 11pm Midnight Holy Communion  
25 Dec @ 10am Family Christmas Communion  
Please remember to ask a neighbour to come to one of the services with you 😊



Note: we have a new way into the church now 😊  
West Porch – usual Sunday entrance  
North Porch – disabled, pushchairs only

**Pigeon holes** – will be available from next week – 1<sup>st</sup> cupboard on left as you enter from the Linkway.