

## Third Sunday before Advent

Scripture Readings: Hebrews 9:24–end and Mark 1:14–20

### Services today

#### 9.30 am The Gathering –

Contemporary accessible worship  
at St Nicholas, Dersingham

#### 11 am Traditional Worship –

Holy Communion  
at St Nicholas Dersingham

*At both Services today, Rev Mark and Rev Dave will be presenting an exciting announcement for this Benefice, so please come along and listen to them if you are able to do so. The announcement will also be sent out, so everyone is included.*

### Next week, 14 November

#### 10.30 am Benefice Traditional Remembrance Sunday Worship –

at St Nicholas Dersingham

#### Bible Readings

Sunday, 14 November

#### Second Sunday before Advent

First reading: Hebrews 10:11–14,  
(15–18), 19–25

Second reading: Mark 13:1–8

**Carolyn Brock** wishes to thank everyone who sent her cards and messages on the death of her mother, Gwyn Watson. They were a great comfort and touched her deeply.

[www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk](http://www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk)  
[dersinghamonlineworship.com](http://dersinghamonlineworship.com)



## The Lighthouse

Benefice of Dersingham, Anmer,  
Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Norwich

7 November 2021, Issue 78  
Third Sunday before Advent

### ‘Don’t sit under the apple tree’

– The Andrews Sisters

Dear Friends, Greetings! I’m reading in my newspaper this Tuesday morning that ‘World leaders promise to save world’s forests in 8 years’. Over one hundred leaders at COP26 have signed a pledge to ‘halt and reverse’ deforestation globally by 2030. Wonderful news! Let’s see what happens. Trees make life possible. They provide shade, beauty and many other benefits. They also teach us spiritual lessons. Other than people, trees are mentioned more than any other parts of creation in the Bible. There is a tree on the first page of Genesis, and on the last page of Revelation. The first Psalm encourages us to be like a tree. Adam’s first instructions were to ‘dress and keep’ the trees in Eden. I’m offering four spiritual lessons we can learn from the trees God planted in Scripture.

Firstly, Turn towards the Light. Trees grow towards the light in a process called phototropism, from the Greek phos [light] and tropos [turning]. Jesus said, ‘I am the Light of the world.’ A tree naturally seeks light. We can follow their example and seek the Light of the world.

Secondly, Put down roots. Trees need water as much as they need light. The first Psalm describes how Godly people are. They are like ‘trees planted by rivers of water.’ The deeper our spiritual roots go, the more we’re able to withstand the trials, troubles and other droughts that come our way. Healthy, mature trees have roots that travel in all directions seeking water and nutrients.

Thirdly, Bring forth fruit. Our apple tree has had very little fruit this year – last year it was a bumper crop. Our lives should produce spiritual fruit every day. Faith isn’t seasonal! We are to produce the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance [Galatians 5 v22–23]. In fact Jesus chose you for the very purpose of bearing fruit. [John 15 v16].

Fourthly, Think long term. Human lives are short. Not so for trees: some are still growing strongly after hundreds of years. As with COP26, don’t cop out when it comes to faith. Don’t make decisions based on short term gain. Ecclesiastes 3v11 tells us that ‘God has set the right time for everything. He has given us the desire to know the future, but never gives us the satisfaction of fully understanding what he does.’ Wow! There’s a text for COP 26, and for you and me as we grow in faith walking in the light.

Keep safe. Every Blessing, Derek the Cleric.

“The time has come,” he said.  
“The kingdom of God has come  
near. Repent and believe the  
good news!”

Mark 1:15

#### Tree of Life Pledges

You are invited to continue adding  
your pledges to the tree in  
St Nicholas church. –Rev Mark

#### Remembrance Sunday

Our **Remembrance Sunday Service** is back in Church this year – 10.30 am on Sunday, 14 November. Although wearing a face-covering is no longer a legal requirement, we respectfully ask that all who attend the service will wear a mask. Those participating in the Service are exempt while they are speaking.

The rehearsal, for all who are due to take part in the Service, will be at 6.00 pm on the Saturday evening (13 November). We also request that, if possible and in the interests of safety, face coverings are worn by adults during the rehearsal session.

I do hope that you will be able to attend this useful time of preparation. Thank you.

–Neil Adams

## Wordsearch: Jesus calls the first disciples

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FOLLOWED  
JOHN  
JESUS  
JAMES  
WITHOUT  
ZEBEDEE  
BOAT  
DELAY  
REPENT  
SIMON  
ANDREW  
BELIEVE  
NETS  
FISHERMEN

*Thanks to Carol for this week's puzzle, which is based on Mark 1:14-20.*

The Christmas Tree Festival would greatly appreciate donations for the Raffle, the Jigsaw Puzzles Stall and the Tombola. Donations can be left in the boxes at the back of the church. Thank you.  
-Peter F.

Please pray for our youth group, some of whom are on a weekend away meeting other young Christians. And for our youth group Elevation, continuing with Youth Alpha next week.

**DERSINGHAM GUIDE UNITS**  
The Rainbows, 1st & 2nd Brownies & Guides  
invite you to a  
**COFFEE MORNING**  
on  
**SATURDAY 20th NOVEMBER**  
at  
**SCOUT & GUIDE HQ**  
Manor Road  
10am-12noon  
Refreshments, Raffle, Tombola, Stalls, Games  
Lots of fun for everyone  
Proceeds divided between 4 Units

## Prayers for persecuted Christians around the world: Mozambique

Population 32.3 million  
17.4 million Christians (54%)

Please pray: that Christians who have lost loved ones will know God's comfort and healing, and even his power to forgive their persecutors. • For protection from further attacks by Islamic extremists and that God would thwart their plans. • Ask God to change the hearts of those who wish to harm Christians, and show them His Love.

[Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide - Mozambique - Open Doors UK & Ireland](#)

### A prayer for Mozambique from Open Doors

Dear Father, the Jihadist attacks in Mozambique are heartbreaking, and it is difficult to think about the 52 young people who lost their lives because they refused to deny You. But it is also a great encouragement to know that these believers stood strong to the end and they are now in Your presence. Lord, please give the church in Mozambique the strength and courage they need in this season to be a light for You – no matter what trials they face. Lord, please let them know that they are not alone and that the worldwide church stands with them in Christ. Amen.

**Shoebboxes** deadline is 17 November to hand in boxes at the Co-op. Boxes can also be filled at [www.shoebboxonline.org.uk](http://www.shoebboxonline.org.uk) or you can ask Alan to buy items and fill a box for you (tel. 543836). Thank you.

## Prayer points

- + those who have died and those who are grieving
- + those lost to violence
- + the humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Madagascar
- + for food and aid to reach those who are facing famine
- + hope, encouragement and peace in all circumstances
- + our nation and community
- + wisdom in decision-making
- + help for COP26 leaders to act wisely and immediately
- + all affected by coronavirus
- + GPs, NHS staff, carers and key workers
- + care home residents
- + anyone who is poorly
- + all who have lost livelihoods or fallen on hard times
- + all who are homeless
- + all who are treated unjustly
- + our families; our elderly
- + our schools, teachers, staff and students; our children, young people, parents and caregivers
- + our Armed Forces
- + our Ministry Team and volunteers
- + all who come to church, in person, online or who visit us via social media
- + Baby Basics and the families they serve
- + thanks for God's love, peace, goodness and provision