

Christ the King – The Sunday next before Advent

Scripture Readings: Revelation 1:4b–8 and John 18:33–37

Services today

9.30 am The Gathering –
with Holy Communion
at St Nicholas, Dersingham

11 am Traditional Worship –
Holy Communion
at St Nicholas Dersingham

Next week, 28 November

9.30 am The Gathering –
contemporary, accessible worship
at St Nicholas, Dersingham

11 am Traditional Worship –
BCP Holy Communion
at St Mary the Virgin, Anmer

7 pm Advent Evening Service
at St Nicholas, Dersingham

“I am the Alpha and the
Omega,” says the Lord God, “who
is, and who was, and who is to
come, the Almighty.”

Revelation 1:8

Bible Readings

Sunday, 28 November

The First Sunday of Advent

First reading: 1 Thess. 3:9–end
Second reading: Luke 21:25–36

Some events to look forward to at St Nicholas in December

The Christmas Tree Festival: Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th

Coffee Morning among the Trees: Friday 3rd, 10 am–noon.

Bilton Silver Band Christmas Concert: Saturday 4th, 7.30 pm.

Tickets: £15, available at the November and December coffee mornings, or pre-ordered via 540363 (please leave a message), or on the door. (Tickets for children under 18 with an accompanying adult: £5.)

Christingle Service: Sunday 5th, 4 pm

Trees by Candlelight: Saturday 11th, 5–9 pm

Tea & Carols: Sunday 12th, 4 pm

Meet Father Christmas: Saturday 18th, 10 am–2 pm

Service of Lessons & Carols: Sunday 19th, 6:30 pm

Christmas Eve: **Crib Service** 4 pm and **Midnight Communion** 11:30 pm

Christmas Day: **Family Christmas Celebration** 10 am



The Lighthouse

Benefice of Dersingham, Anmer,
Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne

Christ the King

“The King of the Hill” – Johnny Cash

Dear Friends. Greetings! Hope you have read the verses from John 18, as we reflect on Christ the King standing before Pilate. Best keep reading on to the end of the chapter to catch the full picture of what Pilate and Jesus talk about. Pilate needs to know things from Jesus. Pilate thinks in political terms; he is a political person. He has a kingdom to protect, and to hear Jesus say he has a kingdom too is totally threatening, especially ‘a kingdom not of this world’ [v36]. The strength of Christ’s kingdom is truth, not human force. Here we see John the writer emphasising the backbone to his gospel. ‘What is truth?’ asks Pilate. Was he being sarcastic, or was he searching for answers? Truth was the person standing before Pilate: ‘the Word who became flesh and lived among us – full of grace and truth’ [John 1 v14].

I’ve noticed that as children grow up, they begin to question what is reality and truth, compared with what is fantasy and false. Asking my eight-year-old grandson about Father Christmas, he said it was in his interest to keep up the fantasy about him, as it resulted in even more real gifts!

The problem for Pilate is that Jesus didn’t look very royal or powerful. In the Gospels we see time and time again how Jesus met with the poor and needy. Jesus is a king who never rose so high that he couldn’t see those who were down low. Here is meekness and majesty in the person of Christ. If we would see Jesus at work, we need to look in places kings seldom go.

Because Christ is King, we need to offer him our allegiance. That can be costly, can’t it? I heard of an Anglican minister from South Africa sharing how costly it was to believe Jesus is King during the days of apartheid. He told us how his whole congregation, all 240 worshippers, were arrested and put in jail – from babies to the over-90s. The minister was jailed for more than a year for serving Christ. We come off lightly. How would we answer as Christians about Jesus being truth, or explain about the Kingdom of God? It is not easy to live out what we sing so easily – ‘May the peace of God my Father, rule my life in everything’ or ‘Reign in me’.

Every blessing, Derek the Cleric.

Wordsearch: Jesus before Pilate

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PALACE BASIS
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 SUMMONED CHARGE

Baby Basics News

Bishop Jane came to St Nicholas on Wednesday and part of her visit was to help build a Moses basket with all the essential items needed to be ready for the birth of a baby boy, and to learn more about the valuable outreach work of Baby Basics.

Baby Basics have provided 185 families with Moses baskets and a variety of other essential items so far this year, and without the support of the local community and the generosity of local people and businesses, we would not be able to do what we do. Thank you.
 –Maggie Anderson

Photo: Baby Basics



Thanks to Carol for this week's puzzle, which is based on John 18:33–40.

Prayers for persecuted Christians around the world: Indonesia

Population 272.2 million
 33.2 million Christians (12.2%)

Please pray:

- Praise God that President Joao Widow is beginning to speak about religious freedom for religious minorities – pray that this continues.
- For Christians who are rejected by their Muslim family.
- That Indonesia will continue to be protected from attacks by militant groups, many of which have been foiled by Indonesian authorities.

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

A prayer for Indonesia from Open Doors

Father, please give Indonesian Christians the boldness and strength they need to serve You in an environment that seeks to exclude them for believing in You. Be with the Christians who face daily struggles in their Muslim homes and families. Give them grace to live out their faith as an example of Your love. And Father, please give our brothers and sisters more freedom to worship You, and more places where they can gather in Your name. Amen.

Prayer points

- + those who have died and those who are grieving
- + those lost to violence
- + the humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Madagascar and Belarus
- + 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
- + action to protect and sustain our planet and environment
- + 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