

The First Sunday of Advent

Scripture Readings: 1 Thessalonians 3:9–end and Luke 21:25–36



The Lighthouse

Benefice of Dersingham, Anmer,
Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

28 November 2021, Issue 81
The First Sunday of Advent

Services today

9.30 am The Gathering –
with Adult Full Immersion Baptism
at St Nicholas, Dersingham

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

6:30 pm Advent Evening Service
at St Nicholas, Dersingham

** Please note the revised time of our
Advent Evening Service: 6:30pm*

Next Sunday, 5 December

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

11 am Traditional Worship –
Holy Communion
at St Nicholas Dersingham

4 pm Christingle Service
at St Nicholas, Dersingham

Children's craft activity

Calling all children!

Can you make or decorate an angel
for our Children's Church tree at
the Christmas Tree Festival?

Needed by 1st December, please.

Pick up an angel at the back of
church during your craft activity at
the Gathering and then, when
done, please give the angel to Alan.

Thank you!
–Alan C.

“Heaven and earth will pass
away, but my words will never
pass away.”

–*Jesus' words to his disciples in
Luke 21:33*

Festive events at St Nicholas, 3–5 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
December coffee morning,
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

*There will be more news of festive events
in our next issue ...*

Bible Readings

Sunday, 5 December

The Second Sunday of Advent

First reading: Philippians 1:3–11

Second reading: Luke 3:1–6

www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk
dersinghamonlineworship.com

Scripture Reading: Luke chapter 21 verses 25–36

'I'm Ready' – AJR [Brothers – Adam, Jack and Ryan]

Dear Friends, Greetings and welcome to the start of this New Liturgical Year. Advent is in one sense a reality check to test what we really believe. The nations of our world are in tumult and respond the only way they know how: meeting fire with fire. Yet Christians – the people of God – believe that the kingdom of God is the greater reality. We believe that the kingdom of God is spreading like yeast in dough, like a seed germinating and sending down roots silently in the soil. We believe that Jesus has already come to our world, and that he will come once again; and our response as a church is to stand firm in our ardent belief in the power of Jesus to heal broken lives. The bible teaches that Jesus will come again to our world and that we need to be ready for that day. Unfortunately teaching about Advent seems to be overridden by the joy of Christmas trees and pre-Christmas jollity. I recall how in 1974 our church youth club at St Barnabas Cray in Orpington had Friday night bible teaching about the return of Christ. I had referred to Matthew 24 v 40–41 [where it says twice that at Christ's return 'one will be taken, the other left']. Later that evening a distraught girl came to our door. She had arrived home from the youth club and found that her mother wasn't there. Had Jesus returned? All was solved when her mother came back after nipping out to the chippy!

I read the story that in 1801 the Connecticut House of Representatives was in session on a bright day in May, and delegates were able to do their work by natural light. Something happened that nobody expected. Right in the middle of a debate, the day turned to night. Clouds obliterated the sun, and everything turned to darkness. Some legislators thought it was the second coming of Christ. There was panic. People wanted to adjourn. People wanted to pray, others to prepare for the coming of the Lord. But the speaker of the House had a different idea. As a Christian believer he rose to the occasion with good logic and great faith. 'We are all upset by the darkness and some of us are afraid', he said. 'But, the Day of the Lord is either approaching or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause for adjournment. If the Lord is returning, I, for one, choose to be found doing my duty. Bring in candles, and let's resume our work.'

As Christians, we work for the day of the Lord's return. We are called to be ready, to give an account of our lives, and to look with faith for the day of Christ's return. You could say that the Advent season is all day and every day.

On a completely different note, my son Andrew completed his virtual run from Land's End to John O'Groats about three weeks ago. He rested for a couple of weeks in 'Inverness' with Covid19!

With every blessing in Christ, Derek the Cleric.

Wordsearch: Signs of the end of the age

A	G	L	O	R	Y	S	O	S	D	W	G	P	P
S	M	S	D	D	S	E	T	O	U	A	P	O	R
T	O	N	H	W	L	N	E	T	O	T	G	I	A
A	O	O	T	N	S	R	W	G	L	C	A	W	Y
N	N	I	G	S	I	G	N	S	C	H	S	I	G
D	O	T	N	O	L	P	A	W	P	A	N	G	E
A	O	A	I	P	A	N	L	O	P	N	S	S	W
A	R	N	M	O	A	N	U	T	I	G	N	P	R
R	N	I	O	D	W	N	G	R	D	L	A	I	R
P	L	E	C	R	C	N	C	U	H	T	M	I	A
N	D	S	E	N	W	N	D	O	I	G	L	A	I
R	N	D	Y	M	S	O	N	C	U	S	T	P	S
A	I	N	D	N	P	O	W	E	R	M	H	G	I
R	U	R	E	D	E	M	P	T	I	O	N	M	C

CLOUD	REDEMPTION
COMING	WATCH
POWER	SIGNS
ANGUISH	NATIONS
PRAY	GLORY
MOON	STAND

Thanks to Carol for this week's puzzle, based on Luke 21:25-36.

Shoebboxes news

We handed in 63 shoeboxes on Monday at the collection point in King's Lynn, plus one or more done online. A massive thank you to everyone who took part! A very respectable effort.
—Alan C.

Tea & Carols on the Go!

I've just finished putting together the new PowerPoint for this year's annual Tea & Carols, which I'm greatly looking forward to presenting at St Nicholas Church on **Sunday, 12th December, 4-5 pm**, though you may care to come a little earlier if you'd like to sort out your cuppa and biscuit/cake beforehand! This year, using our well-established system of red and green cards, you'll get to help choose the 9 or 10 carols that we'll all sing along to from a total of 34, including the usual 21 traditional carols together with a selection of 13 of the more contemporary ones we sing at the Gathering. As usual, all words will come up on the big screen, as will the 7 interspersed Bible readings for which we'll invite readers to step up to the microphone as and when, or I can simply activate the audio recordings of readers for last year's online lockdown version. (Actually, the same applies to my leading of the carols too!)

Although of course I hope to see you at Tea & Carols when it launches on 12th December, it is a 'package' that I could easily deliver further presentations of at other venues around the benefice in the lead up to Christmas if there were any interest. Any group size from, say, six upwards would make it viable, so even a largish lounge with suitably distanced seating and a TV into which I could plug my laptop would be fine. Each showing would hopefully yield a different mix of chosen carols too! If you'd like to help arrange or host such an event, do please get in touch with me: *Steve Davis* – 01485 543138 – 07885 721158 (+WhatsApp) – steve@davista.co.uk

Prayers for persecuted Christians around the world: Kuwait

Population 4.3 million
513,000 Christians (11.9%)

Please pray:

- That believers would find fellowship with one another.
- For God's protection for Christians who must keep their faith secret or risk being persecuted.
- That the Government will allow believers more freedom to worship and share their faith.

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

A prayer for Kuwait from Open Doors

Father, we ask You to strengthen Your church in Kuwait. Please give our brothers and sisters in Christ a passion to follow You in the fires of persecution – and let them know You are with them. We also pray for government officials to loosen their grip and to allow more freedom for the Christian community to meet, to worship and to freely live out their faith. Amen.

Thank you: The Dersingham Guides Units (Rainbows, 1st & 2nd Brownies & Guides) would like to thank everyone who supported their Coffee Morning last Saturday. There was a wonderful crowd with a great atmosphere and a tremendous £612 was raised. This will be divided equally between the 4 Units. Once again, many thanks.

Prayer points

- + those who have died and those who are grieving
- + those killed in Wednesday's Channel disaster, and their families
- + humanitarian crises around the world
- + 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