

**Our Daily Bread:** new Bible study booklets for December 2020 – February 2021 are now available. Please call the Parish Office on 01793 853272 if you would like a copy delivered.

**Prayers for the Church in Sudan and South Sudan:** grants from parish giving in Leeds Diocese help to support Yunis Tutu, Assistant Minister for Khartoum Cathedral, who is studying for a Master's degree in Nigeria. Covid restrictions prevented a visit home at the end of the last academic year and he has not seen his family for twelve months. He plans to fly to Khartoum on 19<sup>th</sup> December with Ethiopian Airlines. With armed conflict in Ethiopia adding to present travel concerns, pray for a safe homecoming for Yunis and for others who travel in these difficult times.

The readings and psalms set for **Morning Prayer this week** – for those who would like to join with us at home:

Monday: Psalm 40; Isaiah 49:14-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Tuesday: Psalm 70; Isaiah 50; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-end

Wednesday: Psalm 75; Isaiah 51:1-8; 2 Thessalonians 1

Thursday: Psalm 76; Isaiah 51:9-16; 2 Thessalonians 2

Friday: Psalm 98; Isaiah 51:17-end; 2 Thessalonians 3

Saturday: Psalm 146; Isaiah 52:1-12; Jude

Sunday: Psalm 144; Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7

**Find out what we are up to at:**

Website: [www.stbartholomews-wb.com](http://www.stbartholomews-wb.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StBartholomewsChurchRWB](https://www.facebook.com/StBartholomewsChurchRWB)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2mwesD4RZxknsWth-Qb0vg>

SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-173253054>

Instagram: @st\_barts\_rwb

**Keep in touch, or let us know if any help is needed at:**

Telephone: 01793 853272

Email: [churchadmin@stbartholomews-wb.com](mailto:churchadmin@stbartholomews-wb.com)

**Join our email list for updates and information:**

Email: [churchadmin@stbartholomews-wb.com](mailto:churchadmin@stbartholomews-wb.com)

***We seek to grow through prayer and share Christ's love through engagement with all.***

# Weekly News

## 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020



**Christmas 2020 Toy & Gift Collection ...** a huge thank you to everyone who donated. Several car-loads of gifts were received by the Children's Centre here in RWB – who couldn't quite believe it!

### **Christmas services at St Bart's & how/when to book!**

An **online Christingle service** available here:

<https://thyg.uk/CUS024211> from 2pm on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

An **online Carols by Candlelight from St Bart's** will be available on the St Bartholomew and All Saints Church RWB YouTube channel from Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

On Christmas Eve the church will be open from 10am – 12 noon for **prayer and the lighting of candles** – no booking required.

The **First Communion of Christmas** will be at 4pm on Christmas Eve. Booking for this service will take place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December between 10am – 12 noon. Please phone the Parish Office on 01793 853272 leaving the names and telephone numbers of those who wish to attend.

**Christmas Day Communion** will be at 10am. Booking for this service will take place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December between 10am – 12 noon. Please phone the Parish Office on 01793 853272 leaving the names and telephone numbers of those who wish to attend.

On Christmas Day a recording of the First Communion of Christmas will also be available to watch on the St Bartholomew and All Saints Church RWB YouTube channel.

On **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December** we invite people to join with online services either from Salisbury Cathedral at <https://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/> or with the Church of England nationally at <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

And normal services resume from Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December!

# Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## Third Sunday of Advent

### COLLECT

O Lord Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### FIRST READING: *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-end*

The servant of the Lord said:

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion –  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
  
<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

### SECOND READING: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

My brothers and sisters, <sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; <sup>21</sup>hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
<sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

### GOSPEL: *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' <sup>23</sup>He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' <sup>26</sup>John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.