

Time to Reflect

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 1 Thess 3.9 If you think Paul spends his time wagging his fingers at people, think again.

This is probably Paul's first writing (about 52AD) and it is written to a congregation he had established in Greece in a city at the foothills of Mt Olympus, the very place where Greek religion claimed the gods dwelt. Paul had moved away and sent Timothy to see how things were going. This letter was written when Timothy reported back. It is a letter full of joy and delight. Here was a community, surrounded by all the paraphernalia of idol worship, facing all the pressures to conform to Roman civic life, who put their faith solely in Christ. Paul was bowled over.

As we enter a new Christian Year on Advent Sunday, the wonderful, uplifting and encouraging example of the church in Thessalonica is put before us and challenges us. What sort of example do we give, as individual followers of Jesus and as a Church?

And Paul, in his letter, gives us a clue as to how we might monitor that. He writes about his own reaction to their story; his joy, his gratitude, his sheer admiration that, in the face of the pressure to quietly ignore this "Jesus thing", they had stuck to their guns and continued to regularly gather for worship, and continue with their "Mission Action Plan"; to **"increase (in number) and abound in love for one another and for all"** 1 Thess 3.12.

Worship and Activities this week

Today	5.00pm	Office Hour
	6.30pm	Advent Carol Service
Mon	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	1.00pm	"In-house" @ House on t'Rock
	7.30pm	Youth Central @ Church Hall
Wed	11.00am	Holy Communion
	7.00pm	Advent Study Group@ Ashton Room
	7.30pm	Bury Hospice 'Light up a light'
Thurs	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Tiddlers @ Church House
	12.45pm	Holy Communion
Fri	8.00am	Dust Busters
	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	12.30pm	Sam Rodwell (guitar)
	4.00pm	Junior Choir
	7.00pm	Full Choir Practice
Sat	9.30am	Morning Prayer

Next Week: 2nd Sun. of Advent 9th December

8.00am	Said Holy Communion
10.00am	Parade Eucharist and Parade
12.00pm	Parish Lunch in Blackburne Hall
5.00pm	Office Hour
6.30pm	Evensong

Baptisms, Blessings, Weddings.

Speak to any of the clergy after the service. They will be at the back of church. Spot the dog collar! Our monthly Parish Magazine has a full list of contact details for clergy and organisations on the inside of the back page. For inclusion on the weekly pew sheet: please email: bpc.office@tiscali.co.uk by *Wednesday*.

Collects from *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England*; *Common Worship: Pastoral Services*; *The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects 2000* *The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised Edition)*, copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Advent Sunday

2nd December 2018

www.buryparishchurch.com



We welcome you and hope you enjoy being with us. If you're not familiar with our services, don't worry. We follow a written order of service and at times will tell you which page we're on.

We also welcome children in church. If your child gets restive in church, don't be afraid to get up and move around if this helps. There is a toilet at the back of church. There is a children's area at the back of Church.

8.00am Said Holy Communion
President: Julian Heaton, Rector
Preaching: Julian Heaton, Rector

10.00am Parish Eucharist and Sunday School
President: Julian Heaton, Rector
Preaching: Ian McVeety, Hon Asst
Hymns: 29; 26; 32; 36; 28
Motets:

George Guest:
Zion at thy shining gates
Otto Goldschmidt: A tender shoot

6.30pm Advent Carol Service
Minister: Rhiannon Jones, Assoc Rtr
Preaching: Sheila Beattie, Curate
Hymns: Service Book
Palestrina: Matin Responsory
Goldschmidt: A tender shoot
John Stainer: How beautiful upon the mountain
Guest: Zion at thy shining gates
Anon: Rejoice in the Lord always

CORNERSTONE

Serving Bury, deepening our faith, caring for the marginalised, sharing the Good News of Jesus.

Today's Readings

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (1 Thessalonians 3:9-13)

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (Luke 21:25-36)

Glory to You, O Lord

Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of

the sea and the waves.

People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Advent Carol Service

Sunday, 2nd December at 6.30pm

The pattern of this Advent service reflects the season's growing anticipation, both of the first coming of Christ and of that day when the prayer 'Thy Kingdom come' is finally and fully answered



People of God: awake!
The day is coming soon
when you shall see God
face to face.
Remember the ways
and the works of God.
God calls you out of darkness
to walk in the light of his coming.
You are God's children.



Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and for ever. Amen.

Parish Christmas Lunch

Sunday, 9 December in the Blackburne Hall. A three-course lunch is served. Tickets at £5.00 available from Keith Sedman or the Church Wardens



The Archbishops of Canterbury and York invite you to sign up for daily emails to take the life-changing Christmas journey. Each one includes a picture, a short Bible passage, a simple prayer and an action to reflect on. Sign up here;
www.churchofengland.org/followthestar

Christmas Tree Festival

Groups in our parish will be decorating the church with Christmas Trees. Thanks in anticipation to all who are making such great effort. Bring your friends, tell your neighbours. Let's make this place buzz with joy and expectation.

