

Time to Reflect

I am writing this as Parliament struggles with the whole Brexit debate. Part of that debate is around what it means to be British. What are our values? What do we stand for? What do we stand against? Part of the answer will flow from a particular version of history that matters to us. Version of history, please note; other people emphasise or ignore different parts of our past.

John the Baptist has an interesting preaching style. Far from gently coaxing his congregation, he has a right go at them, accusing them of hiding behind their own particular version of history, their own telling of their faith. ***Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'***. God doesn't care about that, isn't interested in our roots. If we've been spending time looking backward, holding onto one version of life, we've been investing in the wrong thing.

"What then should we do?" ask the congregation. Here's an Advent question. It's a backward looking question. It suggests that penitence for the past is something we have to do. It's an Advent question. It asks us to stare into the mirror and ask God to help us look honestly at ourselves. It's an Advent question. It's forward looking. It's courageous because it dares to suggest that repeating the present is no longer enough.

As we plunge deeper into Advent, we could do a lot worse than echo the question; "What then should I do?" Look openly at the past and the present and into the future with God would be John's reply.

Worship and Activities this week

Today	8.40am	Adult Sunday School @ Robert Peel
	5.00pm	Office Hour
	6.30pm	Evensong
Mon	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	1.00pm	"In-house" @ House on t'Rock
	7.30pm	Youth Central @ Church Hall
Tues		Bury CoE School Carol Service
Wed	11.00am	Holy Communion
	7.00pm	Advent Study Group@ Ashton Room
Thurs	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.30am	Tiddlers @ Church House
	12.45pm	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Greater Manchester Police Carol Service
Fri	8.00am	Dust Busters
	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	12.30pm	Lunchtime Concert : with Bury Parish Church Choir with Audience Carols
	4.00pm	Choir School
	7.00pm	Full Choir Practice
Sat	9.00am	Christingle Making—Ashton Rm
	9.30am	Morning Prayer

Next Week: Advent 4 23rd December

8.00am	Said Holy Communion
10.00am	Parish Eucharist and Nativity
2.00pm	Concert Artur Kojder
5.00pm	Office Hour
6.30pm	Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

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.

Advent 3

16th 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: Rhiannon Jones, Assoc Rtr
Preaching : Sheila Beattie, Curate

10.00am Parade Eucharist and Sunday School
President: Ian McVeety, Hon Assist't
Preaching : Julian Heaton, Rector
Hymns: 563; 34; 31; 235; 27
Motets: Peter Warlock :
Bethlehem Down

6.30pm Evensong
Minister : Rhiannon Jones, Assoc Rtr
Preaching : Rhiannon Jones, Assoc Rtr
Hymns: 34; 25; 32
Psalm 50 : 1 – 6 (pg. 407-408)
Isaiah 35 (pg. 569)
Luke 1.57-66 (pg. 839)
Canticles : Thomas Morley :
Fauxbourdons
Anthem: **Orlando Gibbons** : This is the record of John

Cornerstone

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

Today's Readings

The 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.**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians (Philippians 4.4-7)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (Luke 3.7-18)

Glory to You, O Lord

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptised by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the

trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him, "Teacher, what



should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Christmas Day Lunch

Tuesday, 25 December at 1.30pm

If you or someone you know would enjoy some company on Christmas Day, please join us for a Christmas meal in the Parish Hall. Contact : 07855 306074. Transport is available.

People of God: return!
You are called to be God's own.
From the mountains announce
the good news.

God comes in justice and peace,
to all who follow his ways. You
are God's children.

**Lord, make us one in the peace of Christ
today and for ever. Amen.**



Afternoon Tea at the Rectory

Jackie and Julian invite you to the Rectory on Saturday 29 December from 2.30pm. Come when you can, go when you must. Chance to chat, to eat and drink and catch up with old friends and make new ones.



Christingle Making

Ashton Room

22nd December from 9.00am



We need a huge pile of Christingles ready for our service on Christmas Eve. We need lots of help running a production line. If lots come, should be all done in an hour or so.



The Archbishops of Canterbury and York invite you to sign up for daily emails to take the life-changing Christmas journey. Sign up here;
www.churchofengland.org/followthestar