

# The Benefice of Foremark and Repton with Newton Solney The Second Sunday Before Advent - 15th November 2020

## Daily Reading Sunday 15th November to Saturday 21st November

### Readings

#### Sunday 15th November

##### Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

The prophet announces that the day of the Lord is close. This will be a day when the Lord will execute judgement on all the earth, and for some time there will be terrible punishment.

##### 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Paul likens the day of the Lord to a thief coming in the night. It will be sudden and there will be no escape from the consequences. However, unlike Zephaniah, Paul is able to soften the hard message of judgement with the hope of salvation through Jesus.

##### Matthew 25:14-30

Large sums of money [talents] are left with three servants, with the clear expectation that they will invest the money profitably and wisely while their master is away. On the master's return there will be a reckoning.

##### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November

Psalm 47, Daniel 8:1-14, Revelation 10

##### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November

Psalm 52, Daniel 8:15-27, Revelation 11:1-14

##### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November

Psalm 56, Daniel 9:1-19, Revelation 11:15-19

##### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November

Psalm 62, Daniel 9:20-27, Revelation 12

##### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November

Psalm 63, Daniel 10:1-11:1, Revelation 13:1-10

##### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November

Psalm 68, Daniel 12, Revelation 13:11-18

**NEXT SUNDAY is CHRIST THE KING**



### Collect

Heavenly Lord,  
you long for the world's salvation:  
revive us from inaction,  
restrain us from excess  
and stir in us new hope  
that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

All providing spiritual and pastoral care to our parishes and those within the wider community during this period of COVID-19. May we all continue to pray for and support one another in love.

All our Church, Messy Church and Youth Alpha families that they may continue to deepen their faith.

Those serving God, here and abroad: Nick Parish training for ordination, Sarah Attwood, home from Bosnia for a couple of months, would appreciate prayer that she will be able to connect with friends and family while here and for her teammates continuing with the church in Konjic.

Those in need of long-term prayerful support: Andrew Pitchford, Lynn Wells, Ian Tennant, Samantha Taylor, Ted Weston, Alf Booth, Pat Rodgers, Kay Howard, Claire Rose, Audrey Morris, Joan Taylor, Colin Campbell, Robin Nelson, Carl Baker, Shirley Wells, Betty Thorley.

Prayer requests: Nazanin & family, for all affected by the coronavirus and all seeking to contain & combat this pandemic, for all providing care and support during this second 'lockdown'

Those who have died, both recently and in the past: may they rest in peace and may their families and friends who mourn them find comfort and hope in God.

**BENEFICE SERVICE AT ST WYSTAN'S**  
**10.00am on SUNDAY November 15th**  
**WE HAVE INSTALLED TWO MORE AERIALS SO HOPE THE WIFI SIGNAL WILL NOW BE**  
**STRONG ENOUGH TO GIVE US GLITCH FREE STREAMING!!!**  
**PLEASE NOTE LIVE-STREAMING WILL ONLY BE ON ZOOM**

These are the instructions for joining

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7855049461>

Meeting ID: 785 504 9461

Telephone: 0203 901 7895

Enter the Meeting ID: 785 504 9461 when prompted. There is no password required.

The service will be uploaded to YouTube and Facebook afterwards.

**ARCHBISHOPS CALL ALL CHRISTIANS TO PRAY**

This arrived last Thursday after the newsletters had been distributed. I am sorry for the late arrival.

As a second national lockdown in England begins, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York are asking people to unite in prayer.

In a joint letter to the nation, they spoke of "deeply challenging and difficult times ... surrounded by fear and suffering". The letter reads: "There is a story in the Bible where Jesus and his disciples are caught in a storm. The disciples are understandably terrified as the wind and waves threaten to overpower them. 'Why are you so afraid?', Jesus asks

"This year, we too have been caught in a storm which often feels overwhelming. And yet we can look to Jesus, in the boat with us, who calms the storm and comforts us in our fear."

Acknowledging that it was "hard to feel hopeful", they called for a "calm, courageous and compassionate" response to the challenges of the second lockdown.

"We are writing to share our belief that whoever you are, and whatever you happen to believe, you are loved by God. Beyond measure," they said.

"We also want you to know that we are praying for you, particularly asking that Christ's love will comfort us, calm our fears, and lead our nation and our world through this terrible pandemic."

Explaining what a "calm, courageous and compassionate" response looks like in practical terms, they said it meant reaching out to neighbours with kindness, and "not hoarding" but only buying what was needed.

The Archbishops are asking Christians to pray each day at 6pm during the four-week lockdown.

Resources have been produced by the Church of England to be used in conjunction with the month of prayer – go to <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/call-prayer-nation>.

"Even though there is much darkness around us, there are also many points of light in the weeks ahead," they said, including Christmas with its message that "God is with us, sharing our darkness and our struggles, bringing comfort and joy". "This Sunday is Remembrance Day," the Archbishops continued. "As we remember the courage and sacrifice of those who gave everything for this nation in war, we are also reminded of the possibility for hope after destruction, of new life after suffering."

**THE LAUNCH OF THE FRIENDS OF REPTON PARISH CHURCH**

Planned for the evening of November 12<sup>th</sup> we had to postpone this event. Regardless of the 'Launch' having to be re-scheduled the Friends are organised, functioning and open to those who may wish to join and support our work. At this time The Friends are continuing to work to raise funds for our first project, reinstating floodlighting to the tower, and would welcome financial support.

Further information is available on the Friends website and Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofReptonParishChurch>

## **ON THE DISAPPOINTING CLOSURE OF CHURCHES FOR WORSHIP**

This letter has been written by the CEO of CARE, Nola Leach. CARE is a Christian organisation seeking to bring about positive change in our society.

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for all you are doing to lead the country through this pandemic. Faced as you are with difficult decisions, I want you to know that I and my team are praying for you and the Cabinet as you wrestle with how best to protect lives and keep the economy moving.

As the CEO of CARE, I am writing on behalf of tens of thousands of Christians, including church leaders and churches. Being able to gather together in person for worship is not simply a luxury, but a vital expression of our Christian faith. Many UK churches worked incredibly hard over the summer to re-open in a COVID-secure manner. To my knowledge this was very successful. To face again the prospect of closing for a second time, even if it does only last four weeks is very, very hard.

What is especially difficult this time is that no clear rationale has been given for the closure of churches. For example, to my knowledge there has been no COVID-19 outbreaks connected to churches in England. But there have been in respect to, for example, multiple universities, yet these are allowed to stay open.

While churches are to close, despite being heavily regulated and COVID-19 secured, other places such as large Garden Centres can remain open despite not being subject to the same scrutiny. This gives the impression that business is more important than the right to freedom of religion or belief, freedom of assembly and association. This is a highly concerning position to take.

I write not to make that job any more difficult, but in a constructive spirit. We all know the hidden toll COVID-19 is taking on so many in our society. Churches are places where broken people find strength, support, love and care. To close the doors on this hope is surely a mistake. I am asking you therefore to reconsider the decision to issue this blanket ban on public worship services.

For more than 35 years, CARE has aimed to constructively work with different governments. I ask now that on this principle of religious freedom that you think again about closing churches. Allowing them to stay open in a COVID-secure way would be welcomed by millions of people across the country.

Once again, please be assured of my prayers for you, Carrie and Wilfred. May God guide you in these difficult times.

## **GOOD NEWS/INSPIRATIONS**

### **WINTER OPENING TIMES - CHURCHES OPEN FOR PRAYER**

**ST MARY'S [EVERY DAY] 10.00 – 3.00pm.**

**ST WYSTAN'S [WEEK DAYS] 10.00 - 4.00pm**

**St Wystan's is open on Saturdays 10.00AM – 3.00pm** then it will be cleaned and set up ready for Sunday.

On **Sundays** the church will be cleaned after the service and then open for prayer until **4.00pm**.

**DAILY PRAYER – will continue this week** at 9.00 using a Service Order from Iona Abbey. We 'meet' on Zoom and the telephone link works for this as well. If you wish to join us, then you are most welcome. Please ask Rebecca for a copy of the service order and a Zoom link.

## COVID19 COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

The local Covid19 Community Support Group are working hard to create a local radio that is available online – with recorded local material from different organisations, agencies and individuals.

The Group are also trying to organise mentoring for those who are unemployed who may need some support as they seek work, and some booster tutoring for Year 11 students who may have missed out on some of their GCSE coursework.

## CHRISTMAS CRIB FEST

Your Vicar is organising a Benefice Wide Crib Festival [along similar lines to the Scarecrow Competition at Open Gardens]. Details for households will follow.

It would be lovely if we could put a 'Crib scene' out by the Lychgate at St Wystan's; near the main gate at St Mary's and at St Saviour's. I envisage large silhouette figures cut out of MDF and weatherproofed – mounted on stakes - or at St Wystans mounted somehow above the wall level. Something like:



You, of course may have better ideas – feed them to me soon please. Failing that, if we are to put these up I need someone/some people with a jig saw and a bit of time to create them. Thank you. Martin