

Advent prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent

God our Father,
you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age
a son called John.

He grew up strong in spirit,
prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,
and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us, who have been
baptized into Christ,
to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,
and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the light who is coming into the world.
Amen.

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.**

**As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now.
Amen.**

Those we are praying for

Rev'd Father Robert Britton, Wynn Evans, Derek Lucas, Paul, Elaine Mason, Caroline Rowley, Pat Holloway Far, Susan Smith, Malcolm Holbrook, Renee Nicholls, Rob Carstairs, Carly Hicks, Pat Turpin, Andrew Wiltshire, Brian, Ruth and Sophie Redman.

Please keep Amy updated as to who needs prayer. We commit to praying for one month unless otherwise advised.

Priest-in-Charge of Benefice	Rev. Jordan Ling	0117 3304953
Focal Minister for St Michael's	Rev. Nicola Callen	0117 9658833
Priest-in- Charge of St Ambrose and St Leonard	Rev. Nicola Coleman	0117 9556678
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Weekly Newsletter



4 Churches seeking to equip God's people to live as a Christian presence in the world



St. Aidan's



St John's



St Michael's



St Ambrose & St Leonard's

Welcome
Sunday 16th December

Our Collect Prayer for this week – The Third Sunday of Advent

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

What's happening this morning?

St Michael's Church	9.00am	Eucharist	Rev. Nicola Callen
St Ambrose Church	9.30am	Nativity Play	Rev. Nicola Coleman
St Aidan's Church	10.30am	Lay-led Service	Rev. Dr Mark Critchlow and Rev. Chris Beaumont
St John's Church	10.30am	Eucharist	Rev. Jordan Ling

Readings this week	Zeph 3. 14-end;	Phil 4. 4-7;	Luke 3. 7-18;
Readings next week	Mic 5. 2-5a;	Heb 10. 5-10;	Luke 1. 39-45;

‘Reaching Out to Welcome In’

www.staidanbristol.co.uk

Sunday Service 10.30am

Special notices

Candlelit Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. This will take place this evening at 6.30pm. Everyone is very welcome to come along.

Carols in the Precinct. Carol singing in Kingsway Precinct. Friday 21st December at 7pm, lasting for 30-40 minutes, with a collection being taken to help towards the work of the Methodist Homeless Centre. Everyone welcome!

St Aidan’s Christmas Services. The Crib Service will take place at 5.30pm on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass starts at 11.15pm and the Christmas Day Said Eucharist will start at 9.30am. Everyone is warmly welcome to any of these Services.

Regular weekly events

Sundays - 1 st in	MESSY CHURCH	9am - 10.15am in the Church
Sundays – Fortnightly	DEAF CHURCH	3pm
Tuesdays	EVENING PRAYER	7pm in the Lady Chapel
Wednesdays	MESSY CHURCH	3.30pm at Air Balloon Primary School
Thursdays	MORNING PRAYER	9.15am in the Lady Chapel
Thursdays	COFFEE & CHAT	10am - 12pm in the Café area of Church



Special notices and upcoming events for all

New Curate. We are pleased to announce that Mary Hotchkiss will be starting her Curacy in June 2019 in the benefice of St. Aidan, St. John and St Michael and across the wider EBP. Please pray for her and her husband and 3 children as they prepare for their move and join our church communities.

This week

Grotto on the Lake. This afternoon All Saints Church will have a ‘Stable’ tent at this local community event run by Friends of Eastville Park. We will be offering activities between 12pm and 3pm in The Stable! Please come and visit us.

Children’s Nativity Service and Carols. There will be a Nativity Service at All Saints Church this afternoon at 4.30pm. Everyone is very welcome!

Carol Service. There will be a Carol Service at St John’s Court, Lodge Causeway, Fishponds on Wednesday 19th December starting at 3pm. Everyone is very warmly welcome!

Carols in the Park. Wednesday 19th December 6.30pm in Fishponds Park (opposite the Porto Lounge) with the Salvation Army Brass Band. Everyone welcome!

Beer and Carols. On Wednesday 19th December at 7pm there will be Beer and Carols in The Spotted Cow Pub, Lodge Causeway. Everyone is very welcome to come along!

Carols in the Precinct. Carol singing in Kingsway Precinct. Friday 21st December at 7pm, lasting for 30-40 minutes, with a collection being taken to help towards the work of the Methodist Homeless Centre. Everyone welcome!

This month

EBP Joint Service. The next Joint Partnership Service is on Sunday 30th December 10.15am at St John’s Church. Please come along and support this.

Further ahead

A Service of Vespers in the Orthodox Tradition. Sunday 13th January 6.30pm at St Aidan’s Church. Choir members from any of the Partnership churches – or from any church – are welcome to come and join us; there will be a choir rehearsal at 5pm the same day.

Epiphany Carols. Sunday 13th January 6.30pm at St Mary’s Church. Everyone is very welcome to come along!

Project Linus. On Saturday 19th January there is a workshop being organised by Project Linus at All Saints Church. Project Linus is not focused on fundraising, our volunteers mainly make patchwork quilts, which they donate to the project. Other volunteers place the quilts, with disadvantaged children in the UK. Anyone who is interested in learning how to do patchwork and quilting is welcome to come along. As materials are provided, numbers need to be known in advance. If you would like to sign up there are some booking forms at the back of each Church or contact Janet Purvis on 07956522719 or linusworkshop@gmail.com.

The Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah, - what a life! I guess we've all met people we regard as "Jeremiahs", pessimists, all doom and gloom, but don't write him off without taking a second look. There's more to him than that....

He didn't want to be a prophet in the first place. When still "only a youth" Jeremiah received and reluctantly picked up a call from God to speak to the nation to wake up to understand that it was on the brink of disaster (1:1-10). Born into a priestly family near Jerusalem in the latter end of the 7th century BC, he had grown up observing that the state of Judah and city of Jerusalem, sandwiched in between the two powers of the day, Babylon to the north and Egypt to the south, was sleepwalking its way to destruction.

Young, powerless, and not very good with words, he set about his difficult mission, telling the nation to awake and face up to the reality of its situation. When the crunch came in 587BC Jeremiah stayed in Jerusalem with those who were left behind under the rule of puppet kings. The Jews had abandoned belief and faith in God. He bravely confronted them with the consequences of superficial worship, false beliefs and immoral lifestyles. The leaders and inhabitants of Jerusalem had a false belief that as long as they had the temple their future was safe, because God was with them, but they had lost the plot. Their worship and rituals were meaningless. Corruption was rife.

Jeremiah's message, delivered in narrative, poetry, and enacted symbolic actions, was the same, "If you change your ways, clean up your act, return to the one true God, you might just about avert complete disaster and destruction." (my words!). Nobody listened even as his prophecies came to pass. He was finally exiled to Egypt and obscurity.

There was no happy ending for Jeremiah. He was unpopular. He was branded a traitor. His life was threatened, he was abused, imprisoned, beaten, and suffered assassination attempts, but still he remained true to his calling.

Jeremiah had qualities which may inspire us on our own journey of faith. He was courageous and unswerving in his mission. He was a realist who said it how it was – standing out against injustice and insincerity. He was committed to faith in God in head and heart. He remained faithful to his calling throughout his whole life. He spoke the word of the Lord to the nation which marginalised and disregarded faithful people.

And finally, if you look carefully at Jeremiah's prophecies you will also find nuggets of **hope**. Christians have a responsibility to bring **hope** where there is despair, anxiety, depression, and fear. Take heart, for God will renew all things. **".. I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more."** (Ch. 31: 33-34)

'Serving the Community Worshipping God'

www.stjohnsfishponds.com

Sunday Service 10.30am

Special notices

Christmas Cards. The Church Christmas cards are at the back of church ready for delivery and it would be great to get as many delivered as possible this year. Please take any that you can deliver – even if it is only for your own street – but let's see if we can cover the whole parish this year.

Carols by Candlelight. This will take place this evening starting at 6.30pm. Everyone is very welcome to come along.

Over 50's Club. The Over 50's club will not meet in Church on Monday 17th December but will instead meet for lunch at The Van Dyke Forum at 1.30pm. Everyone is very welcome!

Carol Service. Wednesday 19th December at St John's Court, Mayfield Park starting at 3.00pm. ALL WELCOME.

Beer and Carols. On Wednesday 19th December at 7pm there will be Beer and Carols in The Spotted Cow Pub, Lodge Causeway. Everyone is very welcome to come along!

St John's Christmas Services. The Crib Service will take place at 5.30pm on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass starts at 11.30pm and the Christmas Day Said Eucharist will start at 10.30am. Everyone is warmly welcome to any of these Services.

From Christmas card to cosy bed. St John's Action for the developing world invite you to place a Christmas card on the noticeboard at the back of church to all your friends, and put the money saved from not sending everyone a card into the night shelter donation box. Please help us reach our target of providing at least 20 night shelter beds this winter (@£17 a bed).

Greater Fishponds Community. There are some 'What's on Guide' booklets at the back of Church produced by the Greater Fishponds Community project. Please feel free to take one.

Regular weekly events

Tuesdays	MORNING PRAYER	9.15am in Church
Tuesdays	COFFEE & CRAFT	10am - 11.30am in Church
Thursdays	HOLY COMMUNION followed by Coffee	10am in Church
Saturdays	BIBLE STUDY	10am in Church

St Michael's Church

'Serving the Community of Two Mile Hill'

Sunday Service 9am

Special notices



Nibbles at Nic's. On Saturday 22nd December from 3pm until 6.30pm Rev. Nicola Callen will be having festive nibbles at her house. Donations will be welcome in aid St Michael's boiler fund. Everyone is very welcome. Please let Nicola or Pete know if you are planning to go. Thank you.

Carols by Candlelight. This will take place on Sunday 23rd December starting at 6pm. Everyone is very welcome to come along.

St Michael's Christmas Services. The Crib Service will take place at 4pm on Christmas Eve and Midnight Mass will start at 11.15pm. Everyone is warmly welcome to both these Services.

Regular weekly events

Fridays	COFFEE AFTERNOON	2pm - 4pm in Church
Saturdays	COFFEE MORNING	10am - 12pm in Church
Wednesdays - 1st and 3rd in month	HOLY COMMUNION With prayers for Healing	10am in Church
Wednesdays - last in month	FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS GROUP	2pm - 4pm in Church hall



St Ambrose and St Leonard's Church

'At the heart of the Community'

Sunday Service 9.30am

Special notices

I appreciate that there are many events thought out this time of Advent in our Churches Please support

St Ambrose Church

Everyone is invited to the special carol service at 4 p.m. on December 16th in support of Christian Aid and special guest speaker Callum Humphries, Christian Aid's Regional Coordinator for Bristol

Peace is broken every day, but it is also built every day through the tireless work of peacemakers be a peace maker this Christmas and show them the real message of Christmas.

With a retiring collection for Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal followed by refreshments

For more details on the Appeal, visit www.caid.org.uk/christmas-appeal



Nine Lessons and Carols. This will take place on Sunday 23rd December at 9.30am. Everyone is very welcome to come along!

St Ambrose and St Leonard Christmas Services. The Crib Service will take place at 3.30pm on Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass starts at 11pm and the Christmas Day Eucharist will start at 9.30am. Everyone is warmly welcome to any of these Services.

Regular weekly events

Wednesdays	HOLY COMMUNION	10am in Church
Tuesdays - 1st in month	HEALING EUCHARIST	7pm in Church