



All Saints'
Newtown Linford



Advent Sunday

3 December 2023

10am

Holy Communion

The Revd Prebendary John Woolmer

First reading: 1 Corinthians 1.3-9

Gospel reading: Mark 13.24-37

This service will be streamed online at
www.facebook.com/allsaintsnewtownlinford/live

A warm welcome to all to worship today, whether onsite or online. Please use this sheet to help you during the service and then take it away as a reminder of the notices and as a guide to prayer.



There is a loop system for those with hearing aids

For more information contact:

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www.allsaintsnewtownlinford.org.uk

News and forthcoming events

Advent and Christmas services

We have a Christingle Service next *Sunday 10 December* at 10am;
on *Saturday 16 December* we particularly welcome people to Light a Candle;
the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols is at 7.30pm on *Sunday 17 December*;
on *Christmas Eve* we have the Crib Service at 3pm;
and Midnight Communion begins at 11.30pm;
on *Christmas Day*, Holy Communion is at 9am;
on *Sunday 31 December*, we host the Bradgate Group Holy Communion at 10am;

Christmas Tree Festival

As last year there will be a Christmas Tree Festival in church, launching with the Village Fayre this Thursday, 7 December. Do come down at any time during the days following to view, or come at 5pm on Thursday when they are officially unveiled.

Advent readings

At the back of church are a number of copies of 'Comfort and Joy', daily Advent readings from Isaiah. These are free for anyone who would like them and we would like to encourage everyone to do so; a purely voluntary contribution of £1 would cover the costs.

Building work

Our last five-yearly inspection of the building identified a few areas where some of the stonework needs repair. We have agreed a tender from a building firm and work is beginning soon and will take until Christmas. The work is external so should not affect our services or groups.

Christmas Cards

Thank you to those who put in an order for particular designs of the church Christmas cards. Packs are available for general sale at the back of church at £7.50 for a pack of 10.

Giving

If you would like to give to support All Saints', please use our online donation page, <https://bit.ly/asnl-donate>. A basket and contactless giving system are available at the back of church. If you would like to give regularly, please speak to Michael Upstone about the Parish Giving Scheme.

Shaped by God Together: Journey to Minster Communities

It is very likely that the conversation about All Saints' involvement in a Minster Community will begin in the next six months. To prepare, we can:

- Pray for the renewal of God's church.
- Partner with neighbouring churches.
- Promote vocations – please pray and consider: is there someone you know who you think should explore this?
- Prioritise school links.

Distribution of Communion

At Communion services here in Newtown Linford it is now possible to receive the wine from a chalice. If you wish to continue to receive the wafer dipped in the wine rather than sip from the shared cup, please hold out **just one** hand as the priest approaches you and they will dip it in a separate chalice.

Prayer

Advent

Life is full of waiting, from the mundanity of waiting for buses to the anxiety of waiting on difficult news. Waiting can often be painful and frustrating. When things feel out of our control, we may become impatient, assuming God is distant. We might feel driven to direct our despair upwards, crying out for God to rip apart everything that seems to separate us from him and to reach down and sort things out.

As Advent begins today, we are called to begin a particularly profound kind of waiting. Advent is a season of expectation and preparation as we anticipate the birth of Christ – the miraculous, amazing gift of the incarnation, through which God did tear apart the heavens and come down, longing to be with us as one of us, through Jesus.

We may often feel powerless in the face of life's challenges, aching for God's presence, but we can be reassured that throughout history God has always been with us in our yearning, and has shown he rewards our waiting by working for us. The steadfast God 'of ages past', who has already demonstrated such immeasurable love, is the same God of today. Christ has come before, and Christ will come again. May that comfort and sustain us in this time of waiting.

Pray:

- For our churches and communities as we prepare to journey through Advent
- That those who feel powerless and hopeless will feel God reach into their lives

Collects

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.

Post Communion: O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Additional Collect: Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns, turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness, that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Measures for everyone's safety

Ventilation: we continue to have windows open whenever we meet.

Space: pick up a card from the table as you enter to place next to you to indicate you wish increased space.

Hygiene: sanitizer is provided in key locations – at the entrance, where books can be collected and where communion is distributed.

Communion is available with the bread dipped in the wine.

You should not attend services while you are testing positive for COVID-19. Please join the service online – we stream every Sunday.