

THE FLAME

www.ParishofBaildon.uk and www.StHughs.org

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Working days: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

The THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT

16th December 2018

THIS MORNING'S READINGS

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING - *Zephaniah 3.14-end (NRSV)*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING - *Philippians 4.4-7 (NRSV)*

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.

THE HOLY GOSPEL - *Luke 3.7-18 (NRSV)*

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized 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 baptized, 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 baptize 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 baptize 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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. **Amen**

WELCOME

WELCOME to the Parish of Baildon. You will find an accessible toilet in each of our three churches/halls and hearing loops are fitted.



TODAY'S SERVICES

ST HUGH'S CHURCH at 9.00am

Hymns: CP 26, sheet 1, CP 34, 35

ST JOHN'S CHURCH at 10.00am

Hymns: CP 26, sheet 1, 2, CP 178
sheet 3 and CP 35

ST JAMES' CHURCH at 10.30am

Hymns: CP 26, sheet 1, 2, 3, CP 35

ST JOHN'S CHURCH HALL

Messy Church at 4pm



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ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St John's Church

Sunday 16th December

4.00pm Christmas Messy Church

Sunday 23rd December

6.00pm Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

8.30am Christmas Communion

10.00am Christmas Communion

St James' Church

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service

Christmas Day

10.15am Christmas Communion

St Hugh's Church

Christmas Day

8.45am Christmas Communion

NOTICES

MESSY CHURCH - It's a Christmas-themed Messy Church today, Sunday 16th December, at 4pm in St John's Church Hall. We will be making mobiles telling the Christmas story, singing, sharing tea and lots of other activities. Families are very welcome to come and join the fun.

CANDLELIT CAROL

SERVICE - Join us for our annual service of carols, readings and anthems on Sunday 23rd December at 6pm in St John's Church. This is always a very popular service when we hear again the story of the birth of the Christ-child.

FOOD BANK - Thank you for all your kind donations to St Hugh's foodbank. We have been quite busy this month, supplying a month's worth of food parcels in just one week! We are short of UHT milk, tinned potatoes, pasta sauces, tinned meat (chicken in white sauce, stewed steak etc), toiletries (shampoo and shower gel) and instant coffee. Donations would be much appreciated.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD - Once again we are offering you the opportunity to share your own Christmas greetings with members of our congregations on a joint Christmas card as an alternative to sending out individual greetings cards. The giant cards and labels for your greeting are available in each of our churches and have been decorated by our Sunday School children. All we ask is that you donate the money you save to Save the Children. There is a collecting jar next to the card.

MISSION BOXES - Please return your mission boxes for CMS, Mission to Seafarers, Leprosy Mission and The Bible Society to John Guest before the end of the year.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Sunday School will not run on Sundays 23rd and 30th December.

JOINT PARISH WORSHIP - Our next 5th Sunday Joint Parish Worship is on 30th December at 10.00am at St Hugh's Church.

ADVENT COURSE - Reflecting on the characters from Jesse, this 4-week course has run on Mondays and the last session is on 17th December from 7.30pm to 9pm at St James' Church. The session is free and there is no need to book - just turn up.

CHRISTMAS CARDS TO GIVE AWAY - We have produced a Christmas card showing all of our Christmas services across the parish and to wish those who receive them a happy Christmas from the Parish of Baildon. These are available at the back of all churches, in bundles of 10. Please take as many bundles as you can and put the cards through the doors of your neighbours and people who you think may be interested in coming to church at Christmas.

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS CRAFTY SPACE - Do come along to St James' Church Lounge, a lovely welcoming space, on Thursday 20th December 10.00am to 11.30am. This will be a time for adults to connect with the season of Advent through relaxation, reflection and rest, through responding creatively making/illustrating something, as part of our preparation for Christmas. Everyone is welcome. A range of different craft activities will be on offer.

CHURCH DIARIES - Collect your copy of our 2019 Church diary from the back of church.

RAINBOWS - Rainbows is a fun and exciting programme for girls aged 5 to 7. A new unit will begin in the New Year at St John's Church Hall on Tuesdays in term time from 4.45pm to 6.00pm. If you are interested in a place for a girl or in becoming a volunteer, you are welcome to attend an Open Meeting on Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 7.30pm in St John's Church Hall. Or you can express an interest by phoning Heather Hows on 01274 427239.

THIS WEEK'S PARISH DIARY

THIS SUNDAY: *Third Sunday of Advent*

- 8.30am **Holy Communion** at St John's Church
- 9.00am **Holy Communion** at St Hugh's Church
- 10.00am **Holy Communion** at St John's Church
- 10.30am **Holy Communion** at St James' Church
- 4.00pm **Messy Church** at St John's Church Hall

MONDAY:

- 7.30pm **Advent course** at St James' Church

TUESDAY:

- 9.30am **Morning Prayer** at St Hugh's Church
- 10.00am **Parish Prayer Group** at St James' Church
- 2.00pm **Wedding** at St John's Church
- 6.00pm **Vestry Hour** (arrangement of banns, baptisms etc) in St John's Church Hall

WEDNESDAY:

- 10.00am **The Eucharist** at St James' Church
- 2.00pm **Julian Meeting** at 48 Hoyle Court Road

THURSDAY:

- 10.00am **Crafty Space** at St James' Church
- 10.15am **School End of Term Service** at St John's Church

SATURDAY:

- 10.00am **Carol Singing** at Baildon Co-op for Shelter and Crisis

NEXT SUNDAY: *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

- 9.00am **Holy Communion** at St Hugh's Church
- 10.00am **Holy Communion** at St John's Church
- 10.30am **Holy Communion** at St James' Church
- 6.00pm **Candlelit Carol Service** at St John's Church