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**Church Link**  
Sunday 28 November 2021

**No. 88**  
Advent Sunday

*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.*

Post Communion Advent Sunday

Our Sunday Eucharist is at St Michael's, Compton Martin at 10:15am. Following worship, the churchwardens, Kate and Jonathan Reynolds and Compton Martin PCC would like to invite you to celebrate the successful completion of the disabled access project for St Michael's. They will be offering light refreshments in the Old School Room and would like to thank all those who contributed in varied and generous ways to bring the project to fruition.

At 5:00pm, evening worship with reflections for Advent will be held at St Bartholomew's, Ubley.

For those worshipping online, we recommend that you join either the worship from St Thomas' Church in Newcastle at 9am or the Advent Carols and Readings from St Catherine's College, Cambridge at 6pm - links below.

Please see the notices below for worship during December and a separate poster for Christmas celebrations across our villages. Don't forget 'Thank Cake It's Friday!' will be at the Old School Room in Compton Martin for tea and a chat on Friday afternoon from 2:30pm. A reminder too, that St Andrew's fair will be on Saturday 11th December at 10am. Please contact [Penny.Crawford](mailto:Penny.Crawford@bladonparish.org) for more information.

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Yours in Fellowship,  
Revd. Simon Lewis  
Laura Williams

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**- Advent Sunday -**

**Sunday 28th November**

- 10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Michael's, Compton Martin
- 5:00pm - Evening Worship with Reflections for Advent, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

**Monday 29th November**

- 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

**Tuesday 30th November**

- 10:30am - Mini Melodies (a Toddler Group) St Andrew's, Blagdon

**Wednesday 1st December**

- 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Michael's, Compton Martin
- 5:00pm - Evensong, sung by the Choir, St Andrew's, Blagdon

**Thursday 2nd December**

- 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Blagdon
- 12:00pm - Online Church in the Spirit of Iona, via Zoom. Please [contact](#) the Church Office for the Zoom code.

**Our three parish churches will be open for individual prayer every day from 9am - 5pm**

Please wear a face covering inside our buildings and observe social distancing.

**Reading and Reflection**  
Advent Sunday  
28th November 2021

These verses from the author of Luke's Gospel are difficult to understand; nevertheless, Jesus spoke clearly about the Second Coming. It is probable that the writer, is 'reading back' and reflecting on the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in AD70.

**Reading:** Luke 21.25-36

**The Coming of the Son of Man**

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

**The Lesson of the Fig Tree**

Then he told them the parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

**Exhortation to Watch**

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

**A Reflection**

The Gospel this week comes after some grim predictions; the temple will be destroyed (21.5-6) of wars and rumours of wars, earthquakes, and plagues (21.9-11), the arrest of Christians, the opportunities for witnessing (vv.12-19), then the destruction of Jerusalem (21.20-24). Now come thoughts on cosmic signs.

Luke tells how Jesus said these things, not to frighten, but to prepare us; it seems appropriate in these uncertain times; it makes for strong reading; in the end there is a picture of a world restored for God's intentions. He talks about a coming destruction but then about the coming of the 'Son of Man'; cosmic signs involving the sun and moon and stars. Your imagination must work hard; it is the picture of the birth of a new world; like childbirth there will be labour and pain; when all is restored there will be great joy; it is a time for hope - for eager anticipation - for joy.

Jesus' words are strange to us; to his disciples, familiar with the Hebrew Scriptures, they would be nothing unusual. 'The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts' (Psalm 46.6). 'You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them' (Psalm 89.9).

This is the language of poetry; it is also the promise of God that through all the troubles of life and living, his love, his care, is ever present. Then the Advent theme: be ready, stay alert for something wonderful; then there will be great rejoicing. Waiting is dull; no one wishes to stare in the darkness hour after hour. Why not sleep? But to sleep, to be unready for 'the day of the Lord', will lead to disaster.

*Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.  
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long*

Psalm 25:4 and 5

**A Prayer for Sunday**

Almighty God,  
give me 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,  
I 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.  
Amen.

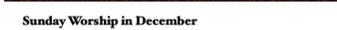
**Online Worship - Advent Sunday**  
28 November 2021, 9:00am

This week's online worship will be from the Church of St Thomas in Newcastle. Please click the blue button below to join via Youtube. Music and readings for Advent will be broadcast from St Catherine's College, Cambridge at 6:00pm via their youtube channel. You can watch the service by clicking [this link](#).

Sunday Worship

**Children's Corner**

This Sunday's Young Church Mag looks at the tradition of the Advent Wreath. There's a poem a maze and a calendar to help you prepare yourself for the arrival of Christmas. It's available at [this link](#) to download.



**Sunday Worship in December**

**Sunday 5th December - Advent II**  
10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Andrew's, Blagdon

**Sunday 12th December - Advent III**  
9:00am - Holy Communion in the Spirit of the Book of Common Prayer, St Michael's, Compton Martin  
10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Bartholomew's, Ubley  
4:00pm - Messy Christmas Church, St Bartholomew's, Ubley  
6:30pm - Carols by Candlelight, St Michael's, Compton Martin

**Sunday 19th December - Advent IV**  
10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Andrew's, Blagdon  
4:30pm - Blagdon Village Carol Service, led by Blagdon Baptist Church in St Andrew's, Church.

**Sunday 26th December - Boxing Day**  
9:00am - Holy Communion (Said), St Michael's, Compton Martin

**Regular Weekday Worship**

**Monday 6th, 13th & 20th December**  
8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew's, Ubley  
9:15am - Intercessions Group, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

**Tuesday 7th, 14th December**  
10:00am - Mini Melodies - a Toddler Group, St Andrew's, Blagdon

**Wednesday 8th & 15th December**  
8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Michael's, Compton Martin  
5:00pm - Evensong, St Andrew's, Blagdon

**Thursday 9th & 16th December**  
8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Blagdon  
12:00pm - In the Spirit of Iona, online via Zoom  
Please email [benefice.bcmu@gmail.com](mailto:benefice.bcmu@gmail.com) for the link



**Thank Cake It's Friday**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January  
2.30 – 4.15pm  
The Old School Room  
Compton Martin  
(next to the church)

Free  
Tea, cake, etc.  
All welcome!

Hosted by St Michael's Church

**Celebrating Christmas in our Villages**

**Sunday 12th December**  
4:00pm - Messy Christmas Church, St Bartholomew's, Ubley  
Christmas crafts with music and refreshments for families  
6:30pm - Carols by Candlelight, St Michael's, Compton Martin  
Refreshments will be served in the Old School Room

**Wednesday 16th December**  
7:30pm - Carols in the Pub, The New Inn, Blagdon  
Join us to sing and make merry, in aid of the Salvation Army

**Friday 17th December**  
6:00pm - Carols by Candlelight, St Hugh's Charterhouse-on-Mendip  
Refreshments will be served (if weather permits)

**Saturday 18th December**  
10:00am - A Crafty Christmas, The Old School Room, Compton Martin  
An event for families with refreshments

**Sunday 19th December**  
4:30pm - Blagdon Village Carol Service  
An ecumenical service led by Blagdon Baptist Church in St Andrew's

**Tuesday 21st December**  
6:00pm - Carols Round the Tree, outside St Bartholomew's, Ubley  
Traditional village carolling. Everyone welcome.

**Christmas Eve**  
4:00pm - Carols Service, St Andrew's, Blagdon  
Children may dress up as a character from the Nativity  
12:30pm - Midnight Mass of the Nativity, St Andrew's, Blagdon

**Christmas Day**  
9:00am - Holy Communion (said) St Andrew's, Blagdon  
10:00am - Christmas Worship with Carols at both St Michael's, Compton Martin and St Bartholomew's, Ubley

Our services do not require pre-booking, but we ask that you respect the needs of others and use hand sanitiser where available, wear face coverings in our buildings and follow the directions of stewards.

**St Andrew's Christmas Fair**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 11**

**St Andrew's Church, Blagdon**

**10.00am - 12.00 noon**

**Entrance £2.00**

to include coffee/tea and mince pie  
**Baked Goods, Plants, Toys, Tombola, Craft & Gifts, Raffles**

(We are only able to deal in cash)

**We have heard that Father Christmas is planning to pay us a visit too so don't miss out!**



**Prayer within our Community**

We have been asked to pray for:  
in the Parish of Blagdon, please pray for Britta and her parents Roger and Kathy, Neil and Margaret, and Gerald.  
in the Parish of Ubley, please pray for Nigel.  
in the Parish of Compton Martin, please pray for Ann and Robert, for Ceinwen and Robert.

Please pray for Atticus and his family as they prepare for baptism.

We pray for the repose of the soul of David Anstee, his family and friends and for all those who are grieving at this time.

*Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
Amen.*

If you have someone or something that you would like us to pray for, your requests can be passed onto them and included in our prayers. Please click [here](#) to send us your requests.

**Community Support and Help Details**

Support is available in all our villages for anyone who is self-isolating:

**For those who live in Ubley**

**Ubley Cares**  
Landline: 462827 speak to Jonathan Longhurst  
Email: [j1tandj2@sky.com](mailto:j1tandj2@sky.com)

**For those who live in Compton Martin:**

**Coronavirus support in Compton Martin Parish**  
Email: [comptonmartin.cx@gmail.com](mailto:comptonmartin.cx@gmail.com)  
Landline: 221415 speak to Jean Luckett  
Mobile: 07908 061119 speak to Jean Luckett  
Email: [patswanjanaluckett@gmail.com](mailto:patswanjanaluckett@gmail.com)  
Landline: 220102 speak to Rachel Branston

