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Church Link No. 87 Sunday 21 November 2021 Christ the King

*Stir up, O Lord,
 the wills of your faithful people;
 that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by you be
 plenteously rewarded;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Collect for the week preceding Advent

Worship this Sunday is at St Andrew's, Blagdon at 10-15am. Please continue to follow Covid-19 advice by using hand sanitiser, wearing a face covering and registering with a form of Track and Trace.
 Online worship will be at 10.30am on our website. Please see the links below.

Thank you to all those who contributed to our Acts of Remembrance in our villages last week. It was particularly nice to welcome John Mills and Blagdon Primary School on Armistice Day and to see how Remembrance Sunday inspired children across our wider community to produce art and literature.

We are finalising our plans for worship during Advent and Christmas and there will be a notice in Church Link next week. It looks particularly busy after last year. We are also glad that St Andrew's Christmas Fair is able to return on Saturday 11th December. Please contact [Barney_Crawford](mailto:Barney_Crawford@benefice-hemu.com) for more information (poster near base of this newsletter).

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Yours in Fellowship,
 Revd. Simon Lewis
 Laura Williams

If you would prefer not to receive electronic communications from us, please [unsubscribe](mailto:unsubscribe@benefice-hemu.com) here.



- Christ the King - Sunday next before Advent

- Sunday 21st November**
- 10:15am - Sunday Eucharist with Baptism, St Andrew's, Blagdon
 - 10:30am - Online Worship, via our [website](https://www.benefice-hemu.com)

- Monday 22nd November**
- 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

- Tuesday 23rd November**
- 10:30am - Mini Melodies (a Toddler Group) St Andrew's, Blagdon

- Wednesday 24th November**
- 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Michael's, Compton Martin
 - 5:00pm - Evensong, sung by the Choir, St Andrew's, Blagdon

- Thursday 25th November**
- 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](mailto:benefice-hemu@gmail.com).

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 Sunday next before Advent 21st November 2021

Christ the King

Where does power lie; who rules?

Reading: John 18.33-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

A Reflection

John presents Jesus as the one who really exercises authority. This was the central question of Jesus' trial before Pilate. Jesus does not answer when Pilate asks, "Are you the king of the Jews?" (John 18.33), Jesus is evasive. In other places in the Gospel, John communicates important messages about Jesus by putting them in a story instead of speaking directly. John uses the trial and crucifixion to show Jesus as king and to note faithlessness of those who reject him.

Pilate declares to the waiting Jews, "I find no case against him" (John 18.38), but he is not an innocent bystander. He is a politician and sees the opportunity to score over the demands of the Jewish leaders for independence. To make his point he has Jesus dressed in a purple robe and crown of thorns (John 19.2). He is beaten and then displayed to the Jews. Pilate puts them in the position of demanding the death of their own king (John 19.6).

John crafts his account so that in his crucifixion Jesus is seen as King. His crucifixion is his enthronement. Although all four Gospels record the inscription over the cross (Matthew 27.37; Mark 15.26; Luke 23.38), only John adds the extra details about Pilate's encounter with the chief priests. John has already told you that Jesus is "King of Israel," (John 1.49) now Jesus is king even against the protests of the Jewish leaders.

The crucifixion makes clear, Jesus' kingship is "not of this world" (John 18.36). Kings take power from others by fight or diplomacy; Jesus makes no defence; he does not fight; he offers an alternative. "I have been born and come into the world for this: to witness to the truth" (John 18.38). That theme is embedded within the story John tells. Those who can hear or see the message of Jesus' crucifixion see a true king.

The same word used to say Judas 'betrayed' Jesus is the same word used for 'handed over' others were implicated. John tells you Jesus is not the victim betrayed; on the cross, it is Jesus who "hands over" his spirit 'to witness to the truth' (18.37). It is Jesus, not Judas, not the Jews, not Pilate, who exerts authority over life and death.

John unfolds the reality of Jesus' kingship. It is a kingship that can be difficult to see, for it is manifest in crucifixion rather than in political dominance. Today, Jesus' kingship can be difficult to see for the same reasons. Preachers may want to use John's story to make visible how, like the Jews, our allegiances to earthly powers lead us to deny God's kingship. We may not even be aware that we have done so.

*Your throne is established from of old;
 you are from everlasting.*

Psalm 93.3

A Prayer for Sunday

Eternal Father, Creator,
 whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
 that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
 keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
 and in the bond of peace,
 and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
 where he is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.
 Amen.

Online Worship - Christ the King 21 November 2021, 9:00am

This week's online worship will be available on our website from 10:30am on Sunday, and can be accessed by clicking the link below.

[Sunday Worship](https://www.benefice-hemu.com)

Children's Corner

This Sunday is also known as Stir Up Sunday. In Young Church are there are puzzles and quizzes, a dot-to-dot and colouring to explore the theme and to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. It's available by clicking [this link](#) to download.

Worship in November

Sunday Worship

Sunday 7th November - Third Before Advent
 9:00am - Cafe Church, St Andrew's Church, Blagdon
 10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Andrew's Church, Blagdon
 3:00pm - Lights of Love, St Bartholomew's Church, Ubley
 5:00pm - New Horizons: Eternal Light, St Hugh's Church, Charterhouse

Sunday 14th November - Remembrance Sunday
 9:00am - Holy Communion, St Michael's, Compton Martin
 10:50am - Acts and Services of Remembrance, St Bartholomew's, Ubley, St Andrew's, Blagdon, St Michael's, Compton Martin
 4:00pm - Messy Church, St Bartholomew's Church, Ubley

Sunday 21th November - Christ the King
 10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Andrew's Church, Blagdon

Sunday 28th November - Advent Sunday
 10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Michael's, Compton Martin
 5:00pm - Evening Worship, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

Weekday Prayer & Worship

Mondays
 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew's, Ubley
 9:15am - Intercessions Group, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

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

Thursdays
 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Blagdon
 12:00pm - In the Spirit of Iona, online via Zoom
 (please email benefice-hemu@gmail.com for link)

We ask that everyone wears a face covering in our churches, unless exempt. Please be mindful of social distancing.

Thank Cake It's Friday

Friday 3rd December
 Friday 7th 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

DIOCESE OF Bath & Wells
 Living the story. Telling the story.

Connect

Join us for **ADVENT** Around The World

ADVENT MOVEMENT

Advent around the world

The Diocese of Bath and Wells Go Team have been working with [Send a Cow](#) and [Movement](#) on an Advent resource for young people that [tells a journey](#) through the account of the birth of Jesus found in Luke's gospel, but gives a global perspective too.

The collaboration has produced five short videos (one for each week of Advent plus one for Christmas Day featuring Bishop Ruth), four [youth group session outlines](#) and an Advent social media campaign complete with daily challenges: all based around the themes of Hope, Joy, Peace and Love. [Read more about the resource.](#)

SOMERSET CHURCHES TRUST

The Romanesque Churches of Somerset

An Illustrated Talk by:
Jerry Sampson
 Church Archaeologist

**7.00 for 7.30 pm THURSDAY
 25th NOVEMBER 2021
 Wells and Mendip Museum**

8 Cathedral Green, Wells, BA5 2UE.

The talk follows our Annual Meeting at 6.30 pm

ALL WELCOME

**£10 including glass of wine or soft drink
 Drinks served from 7.00 pm**

Tickets available on line at our website
www.somersetchurchestrust.org

St Andrews 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 and for Laci-Rose and Penelope-Lou who will be baptised at St Andrew's Church, Blagdon this weekend, and Atticus and his family as they prepare for baptism.

*Faithful and loving God,
 bless those who care for these children
 and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith.
 Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love,
 and protect their home from all evil.
 Fill them with the light of your presence
 and establish them in the joy of your kingdom,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

We pray for the repose of the souls of Nigel Hamilton, John Drew and David Anstee, their families and friends and for all those who were remembered at our Lights of Love on Sunday 7th November.

*Loving God,
 thank you for all those who have shaped our lives,
 but whom we no longer see.
 Help us to remember them well,
 and trust that they are at peace with you.
 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: 1462827 speak to Jonathan Longhurst
 Email: jljand2@sky.com

For those who live in Compton Martin:

Coronavirus support in Compton Martin Parish
 Email: comptonmartin.cca@gmail.com
 Landline: 221415 speak to Jean Luckett
 Mobile: 07968 861118 speak to Jean Luckett
 Email: pelerandjeanluckett@gmail.com
 Landline: 220102 speak to Rachel Branston

