



Serving the community of Bedhampton
by sharing God's love and friendship

Sunday 17th December 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

St Thomas'

9.00am Holy Communion

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Service streamed at 5pm

www.bedhampton.church

4.00pm Celtic Prayer

St Nicholas'

10.30am Morning Worship

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Service streamed at 6pm

www.bedhampton.church

Collect

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.

Rector's Reflection

The third week of waiting for the arrival of Jesus is traditionally used to remember John the Baptist and Love. He declared. 'Make straight the way for the Lord.' This is perhaps my favourite week of Advent as I take stock of my life, in anticipation of the birth of Jesus. I like to ask myself and indeed others, "what and who does your life point to?". Do our actions and words point towards love, towards Jesus? Do others see love in us? This year I had extra reason to ponder as I anointed one of our own entering the last days of her life, before she passed peacefully to be with God on Tuesday. Jean Hildersley, like all of us, would have had flaws, but as I heard stories about her life at our Wednesday midweek communion I couldn't help but think that just like John her life pointed towards Jesus. I hope the same can be said of us when our time comes.

Prayer

Prayer Pointers

1. Children, young people and families
2. Our Christmas services
3. The Swan Inn
4. Independent Shops
5. Ukraine and the Middle East

Those requesting prayer

Richard, Malcolm, Judith Clemo, Alan Newman,
Phil, Chris & Jacqui, David & Linda, Val Norman, Gerry, Joan

We pray for the families and friends of those who have died and of those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

What's on

Christmas Tree Festival: St Thomas' Church, daily 9.00am-4.00pm

The Christmas Experience: St Thomas' Church, daily 9.00am-7.00pm

Tuesday 19th December

2.00pm St Nick's Flicks: St Nicholas' Church

Wednesday 20th December

8.00am Parish Prayer: Join us in the Zoom room by going to www.bton.uk/meet, use meeting ID 2392483013 or go to www.facebook.com/BedhamptonNews to join us on Facebook.

9.30am Holy Communion: St Thomas' Church.

All are welcome. Tea, coffee and biscuits available after the service.

Thursday 21st December

10.00am Online Holy Communion: www.Bedhampton.tv or Facebook and available afterwards

Friday 22nd December

10.30am Coffee & Cake: St Nicholas' Church small hall

Jean Hildersley

The funeral service for Jean Hildersley will be on Friday 29th December, 12pm, St Thomas' Church. All are welcome to attend.

Easy Fundraising

You can help us to raise funds for our church without it costing you a penny! Go through Easy Fundraising to your favourite online shops and we will receive a small donation per purchase. If you click on the following link and once you've raised £5 using your account we get another £5! <http://bton.uk/easy>

Rev Jill

As Jill prepares to move on at the end of January she will be stepping back from pastoral care at the end of December. She will still be with us on Sundays in January but will leave on Sunday 28th January.

Parish Magazine

From January our parish magazine will be £1 per copy. Details about payment will be in with the January magazine. If you wish to cancel your subscription please can you let Deb know.

Beacon Foodbank

The food bank are in need of:
Coffee, tea, sugar, squash
Cereals, jam, marmalade
Soup, baked beans
Tinned meat, fish, fruit & vegetables.

Christmas Day Communion

There will be an opportunity to receive Holy Communion in a short 11:15am service after the main service on Christmas Day.

Alpha or Confirmation?

In February we are hosting an open and informal dialogue about faith, the person of Jesus, and what it all means. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Everyone is welcome. Alpha is also a great preparation if you are looking to be confirmed as an adult. Contact Max for more information.

Men's Lake District Week

All men are invited for a week of chilling and walking in Keswick for 2nd-9th March. Walking options available for all abilities. Max will be there, contact him for more details.

Next week: Sunday 24th December 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**St Thomas'
Shared at St Nicholas'**

**St Nicholas'
10.30am Morning Worship**
Psalm 89: 1-8
Luke 1: 26-38

Christmas Eve

3.00pm Crib Service: St Nicholas' Church
11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion: St Thomas' Church

Christmas Day

10.00am Celebration Service: St Thomas' Church

Prayer Is Vital

Our Wednesday morning prayer is at 8am every week online. We meet to pray for half an hour that God might use us in Bedhampton. I encourage you to join us, you can find details in the "What's on" section. Whatever you do, please do pray for God's mission in Bedhampton.

The Bible Is Key

The Bible is one major way that God communicates with us. To aid us to better understand the Bible in context and its impact on our lives we have a new sermon series over the autumn. The Bible Series introduces the overarching story of the Bible. Each week touches on key themes and relates them to universal human needs. You can find out more at <https://bedhampton.church/bible> where you will also find details of the book behind the series, which is an easy-to-read text by Bible Society's Andrew Ollerton. I encourage you to consider reading it.

Contact us

Parish Office

Deb Vears

Usual hours

Mon-Fri 9.30-12.30

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Rev Max Cross

Usual day off: Saturday

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Usual day off: Friday

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