

SAFEGUARDING ASSISTANTS

We are looking to recruit two proactive volunteers to help to oversee the safeguarding responsibilities in the parish. One of these people will focus on our ministry with children and young people, and the other vulnerable adults. The role descriptions are available so if you have the skills and experience of working in a small team and think that you may be able to offer them for at this time, please contact the parish office. And/or ring Wendy Thorogood (07469 249014) for a chat and more information.

SAFEGUARDING OPEN CHAT, TEA & CAKE

'The Pressures of Christmas' - Monday **2 December** from 3pm-5pm in Holy Trinity Church Bothenhampton. Wendy Thorogood will be leading an **open session** to remind us of the tension and potential safeguarding issues that might affect families at this time of the year. Tea, cake and chat; the usual relaxed format. More info from Bridget: pcc@parishofbridport.org

QUIET DAY – Save the date – 12 APRIL 2025

Will be held at Othona, Burton Bradstock for any members of the parish who would like to attend.

PRAY BRIDPORT

Next meeting is Tuesday **10 December** at 6.30pm for one hour. Venue St Mary and St Catherine's Roman Catholic Church, Victoria Grove.

Heather Purse



Prepare for Advent with
ADVENT CAROLS

Everyone invited to
COME, LISTEN AND SING

ST CATHERINE CHURCH
VICTORIA GROVE
4PM SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER 2024



Taizé Prayer

in advent

Sunday 8th December 2024
4.00pm

**Holy Trinity Church,
Bothenhampton**

[Holy Trinity, Bothenhampton](#)

All are welcome to join us

Traditional Lessons and Carol Service

6pm

Saturday 21st December




CELEBRATING TOGETHER

9 LESSONS AND CAROLS

AT ST. MARY AND ST. CATHERINE'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH, VICTORIA GROVE
WITH ST. SWITHUN'S CHURCH

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER

3.15pm CAROLS & CHRISTMAS MUSIC
4.00pm CAROL SERVICE

AFTERWARDS
MINCE PIES AND TEA
Retiring collection
All Welcome

1st December 2024

First Sunday of Advent

PARISH NEWS



Greetings from Bridport's worshipping community

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The long awaited task of opening our Advent calendars begins today. Behind each door or window lies another symbol to prepare us for the next three and a bit weeks.

This afternoon we will be singing the modern Carol / Hymn 'As with madness we prepare for this festive time of year' which has a verse that concludes, 'so may our feet take us to places where we will meet you.'

Our Advent reading this year follows Rachel Mann's book 'Do not be afraid', and in our various groups we will be studying what she has to say on the joy of waiting in a time of fear.

Maybe you are going to be reading it alone or outside of a Parish group, but however we read what she has to say, I suggest that we might like to consider the plight of many people - in our own land and abroad - who are waiting in fearful circumstances. Those in the war torn places of Gaza and the Ukraine, the southern Sudan; the homeless and hungry of our own nation; those people waiting surgery or diagnosis of some life limiting disease; those waiting to go home from hospital fearful of what the future might hold.

I have noticed two things about Advent in recent years and certainly since the COVID pandemic. Firstly, in December, many more people make the time to stop and chat, that is a good thing. Secondly, many drivers seem to be in dangerous rush to get to their destination, that is a bad thing.

Waiting is a good thing and there can seldom be an occasion when we take a little more time to achieve what we have set out to do, that won't be better for the wait.

My mother had a number of wise sayings and among them was 'patience is a virtue possess it if you can, sometimes in a woman but never in a man.' I pray daily that I may prove my mother wrong.

So do not be afraid this Advent journey, travel hopefully, journey expectantly and arrive safely.

May the God of peace bless you on your Advent journey with him and may you be surrounded with love and prayer.

Revd Philip Ringer

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.
(or)

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.

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.

TODAY'S READINGS

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 a 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.'

1 Thessalonians 3 : 9 to end

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Psalm 25 : 1 - 9 *Prayer of David for Deliverance & Guidance*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. 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. Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord! Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

COMPLINE AT HOME

Tuesdays + Thursdays @ 8pm – request **ZOOM** link from nigelg8@gmail.com

ADVENT BOOK CHOICE 2024

Rachel Mann's book "Do not be afraid" about waiting in a time of fear can be bought from Michele Craddock. Cost is £10 (01308 458725).

THURSDAY PRAYERS

Next Thursday Prayers (first & third Thursday of the month) will be 5th and 19th December with Revd Cally Burch & Revd John Rees – starts at 3.30pm for an hour. Venue tbc.

ST SWITHUN'S EVENTS

Organ recital by young organ scholars, at St. Swithun's, 3pm **TODAY** (Sunday 1st of December). Further details to follow

Christmas Concert by St. Swithun's Brass Band, in the church, at 7pm on Monday 9th of December. Further details to follow.