

Diary for this week 2nd – 7th December

- Mon** 3.30pm Learner Bell Ringers practice
7.45pm Backwell Prayer Watch in Church House
- Tues** 9.00am Morning Prayer at St Bridget's
10.30-4.30 The Meeting Point in The Parish Hall
(11.00 Yoga, 12.15 communion, 1.00pm lunch)
5.30pm Beaver Scouts visit
- Weds** 9.30am Bible study on Zoom
3.30pm Children's Choir in Church House
6.45pm Bell Ringers practice
7.00pm Bridge Club in Church House
- Thurs** 7.30pm Prayer for the Vacancy on Zoom
- Fri** 9.30am St Andrew's Art Group in Church House
6.40pm Choir Practice
- Sat** 10.00am- 12.00pm St Bridget's Coffee morning
with mince pies & carols
10.30am-2.30pm Private Booking in Ch House
7.30pm Bell Ringers 10-bell practice

There is also Morning Prayer on Zoom Mon and Thurs each week – see email or contact the office for the link.

Next Sunday: 8th December (2nd Sunday of Advent)

- 9.00am Little Lambs Baby & Toddler Group
Church House
- 10.45am Sung Eucharist St Andrew's
- 5.15pm Brockley Patronal Service St Nicholas'

Giving to St Andrew's or St Bridget's To support our churches the easiest way is through bank transfer to Backwell PCC: sort code 60-14-49 account No. 41004027 (alternatively, try the contactless station); to Backwell PCC Missions & Charities: Sort code 60-14-49; Account no. 41004035; quoting "Sisters"; to St Bridget's to Chelvey PCC: Sort Code 60-14-49 account No. 05021715.

Fairtrade Church We have renewed our certification as a Fairtrade church at St Andrew's and posters recognising this are in the porch and Church House. Please do support Fairtrade producers where you can and maybe pick up a **Real Advent Calendar** – last chance this Sunday.

Carol singing As part of the national initiative "Shine Your Light", encouraging Christians to hold outdoor events again this Christmas, there will be Carols outside Heaven coffee house on Saturday 14 December at 4.30pm. All welcome.

Poppy Appeal 2024 Thank you to all those who supported this via the Poppy tin and at the Remembrance Sunday Service. A total of £779.19 was raised at the church, which goes towards the grand total of £18,231.88 raised across the District area.

St Bridget's Coffee morning All welcome on Saturday 7th December between 10.00am and 12.00pm. There will be Christmas music with coffee and mince pies & raffle in aid of Caring in Bristol.

Welcome to The Benefice of Backwell and Chelvey with Brockley 1st December 2024 Advent Sunday



Welcome to our services today

- 9.15am Holy Communion St Bridget's
Hymns: 27, 26, 153, 368
- 10.45am Informal Worship St Andrew's

Coffee will be served after the 10.45am services. We will be streaming the 10.45am service on our YouTube channel: https://youtube.com/live/ldv9imB8_DO

Services and prayer during the week

Morning Prayer 9am Mon & Thurs on Zoom; also Tues at St Bridget's in person.

General Information...

St Andrew's and St Bridget's with St Nicholas'

<https://www.backwellchelveybenefice.org.uk/>

<http://www.stbridgetschelvey.co.uk/>

Rector

Vacancy – contact the Benefice Office (details below)

Ministry Team

Rev'd Canon Peter Bailey 01275 790611

Rev'd Joan Rowe 01275 463214

Mr Martin Canning 01275 790309

Mr David George 07532202786

Churchwardens

Backwell: Mr Andy Pitcher 07837281158

Mrs Cherry Leake 01275 462365 / 07708883075

Chelvey: Mr Roger Watson 01275 462821

Mrs Sue Bougourd 01275 853879

Administrator: Benefice office - **01275 463469**

Office open **Tues, Thurs & Fri 9.30-12.30**

admin@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk

Children's worker: Timi Booy – 07540 058609

Working days: Mon, Tues and Weds

childrensworker@saintandrewsbackwell.org.uk

Please submit any notices for the weekly sheet by 9.30am on Thursdays.

Collect and Readings...

Collect for Advent Sunday 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. **Amen.**

Readings for this week...

Genesis 1.27, 3.6-19 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.' To the woman he said, 'I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.' And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it", cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

Luke 21.25-36 '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.' 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. 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.'

For your prayers this week...

In the Anglican Communion: We pray for The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Zambia: We pray for our link church of St Andrew's, Ndola North and their young people (Including Boys Brigade & band, Girls Brigade, Girls Friendly Society).

In this Diocese: Lord, on this first Sunday of Advent we pray that the light of your love may shine brightly to bring light to all.

In the Deanery: We pray for the Benefice of East Clevedon & Preb Noel Hector and the ministry team

Oct/Nov/Dec charity: The Sisters of the Church

December Prayer Cycle: Westfield Road, Westfield Close, Westfield Drive

Church Groups: During December we pray for Little Lambs toddler group, for Rhiannon Mark, its leader and for the older children now moving up.

December Baptism Anniversaries: Nathan, Grace, Lily

Backwell Junior School: We pray for our Pupil Chaplains, all Year classes, their teachers and classroom assistants.

Those who are sick or in need: Becky Jones, Estelle Wong, Jess Wong, Ed Hewitt, Grace Myahalaleel, Barbara Harland, Jenny Webb, Mike & Carol, Brenda Cooke, Lucy Goodland, Julian Barnett, Jane Hepburn, Alan, Judith Brown, Margaret Dagger.

Those who we keep in our prayers: Sue Ashman, Zofia Matyjasik, Maureen Barnett, Vicky Dunscombe

Those who have died: Gerald Wilcox

Anniversary of death: Anne Jump, Mary Williams

Advent Sermon Series Please use the accompanying leaflet for your daily reflections. Copies are in both churches and with the weekly e-mail. Also, do join us for a discussion of the sermon and the other passages on Wednesdays at 9.30am on Zoom.

Christmas gifts Christians Together will again this year be giving presents to the residents in the two homes in Backwell for people with learning difficulties. The Homes are in Moor Lane and Farleigh Road. If you would like to make a donation to support this, please either leave it in the office or let Jean Routley (45 Station Road) have it. Any amount, however small, will be gratefully received. Thank you.