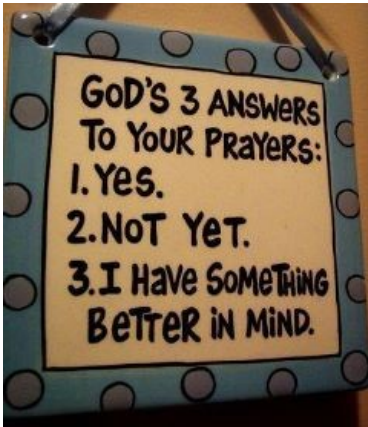


**Chesterfield Parish Church
Saint Mary & All Saints**



Pray without Ceasing

I sometimes think that people have forgotten what God looks like.

I don't mean that they have a strange mental picture of God (though some of them are most odd!) but that they have had so little to do with God that they wouldn't recognise God if he came up to them in the street.

God worked through John the Baptist, but the 'holy' people (the churchpeople of the time) had to ask John who he was.

Constant prayer is the only way to make sure we are clear what God looks like. At least then if God comes to demand an account of our lives we will know who it is that is asking!

**Advent III
(13th December 2020)**

10.30	Choral Mass
18.30	Choral Evensong

ALSO THIS WEEK:

Monday 14th December

09.00	Morning Prayer
12.15	Mass
16.00	Evening Prayer

Tuesday 15th December

09.00	Morning Prayer
09.30	Mass
16.00	Evening Prayer

Wednesday 16th December

09.00	Morning Prayer
09.30	Holy Communion (BCP)
16.00	Evening Prayer

Thursday 17th December

09.00	Morning Prayer
17.00	Evening Prayer
17.30	Mass

Friday 18th December

09.00	Morning Prayer
12.15	Mass
16.00	Evening Prayer

Saturday 19th December

09.00	Morning Prayer
09.30	Mass
16.00	Evening Prayer

Mass on Wednesdays and Sundays is live-streamed on Facebook, and also uploaded to the Crooked Spire YouTube channel.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - CHORAL MASS

Introit: On Jordan's bank

Setting: Mathias in C

Collect Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah **Is 61.1-4, 8-end**

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Gradual Hymn: People look east

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint John

Glory to you, O Lord

John 1.6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Homily, Creed, Intercessions & Peace

Offertory Hymn: When the king shall come again

Communion Motet: How beautiful upon the mountains (*John Stainer*)

Voluntary: Caprice sur les grands jeux (*N.J. Clérambault*)

CHORAL EVENSONG

Introit: Advent Prose

Responses: Plainsong

Psalm(s): 68.1-19

First Lesson: Malachi 3.1-4; ch.4

Office Hymn: Creator of the stars of night

Canticles: Plainsong

Second Lesson: Philippians 4.4-7

Anthem: Veiled in darkness (*G. L. Rudolph*)

Hymn: Thy kingdom come, on bended knee

Voluntary: Finale (*Colin Mawby*)

Prayer Intentions This Week:

Today 13th December - Advent III

- Those who no longer attend church
- ◇ The Falkland Islands
- ✦ *Margaret Barnes*

Monday 14th December - John of the Cross

- Bishop Libby and all our clergy
- ◇ Sodor & Man (England); El Camino Real (TEC)
- ✦ *William Henry Godfrey*

Tuesday 15th December

- St Anne, Ambergate; St Luke, Heage
- ◇ Sokoto (Nigeria); El Salvador (Cen America)

Wednesday 16th December

- Those with whom we will be sharing Christmas
- ◇ South Ankole (Uganda); Eldoret (Kenya)
- ✦ *William Mitchell*

Thursday 17th December - Eglantyne Jebb

- Church Mission Partners in dangerous places
- ◇ S Dakota (TEC); El-Obeid (Sudan)
- ✦ *Dorothy Lord; Jack Johnson; Eric Ford; Liz Bagshaw; Peter Sidney Bates; Malcolm Phipps*

Friday 18th December

- St Helen, Etwell; St Wilfred, Egginton
- ◇ S Kerala (S India); Ely (England); Embu (Kenya)
- ✦ *Sandra McKeown*

Saturday 19th December

- All Saints, Hatton
- ◇ S Rwenzori (Uganda); Enugu (Nigeria); Enugu N (Nigeria)
- Diocesan Cycle of Prayer
- ◇ Anglican Worldwide Cycle of Prayer
- ✦ Year's Mind

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Assistant Curate: Revd Julie Lomas
julie.lomas@crookedspire.org

Parish Office: 01246 206506
(duty priest available 24/7)

Parish Reader: John Gascoyne

Churchwardens: Colin McKenna
Malcolm Wilkinson

Vergers: 01246 206860

Organist & Choirmaster: Dr Paul Nash
choir@crookedspire.org

Our prayers have been asked for:

John Robinson; Sheila Laverick; Carol Kingham; Joan Lidgate; Teddy; June Frankland; John Herring; Michael Catton; Patricia Mitchell; Sue Hastings; Jean Madin; Jane Jackson; David Staves; Laura; Robin Glasson; Kenneth Hughes; Jane Stretton; Paul Taylor; Margaret; Ray Hearn; Tom Pierce; Anthony & Katie; members of the Wolf-Kidd family; Ivor Maltby

✦ *Mick Moore, RIP*

The church building is now open for visitors again from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm Mondays to Saturdays.

The Gift Shop is open from 10.00 am to 4.00pm, Mondays to Saturdays.

COVID19 HAS DEFINITELY NOT GONE AWAY, AND ALL THE MEASURES WE HAVE TAKEN TO REDUCE THE RISK OF INFECTION STILL CANNOT ELIMINATE IT. PLEASE, IF YOU ARE ILL STAY AT HOME; IF YOU ARE VULNERABLE IN ANY WAY, THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE RETURNING TO CHURCH.

If you need support in prayer or any other way please contact the team on 01246 206506 or contact@crookedspire.org

Next Sunday - 20th December - Advent IV

10.30 Choral Mass

Readings: 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16
Luke 1.26-38

15.30 Nine Lessons and Carols

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