

HOLY TRINITY TAUNTON

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December 2023

Holy Trinity Service Times

Services are as follows:

Sunday

8.00am, 10.00am & 4.00pm

**Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am
Friday 12.30pm**

Saturday

10.00am and 6.00pm

**All services will continue to be streamed,
except for Saturday 6pm and Sunday 8am.**

**Service times may occasionally vary – please see
weekly notice sheet for details.**

To access streamed services:



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Fr Julian can be emailed directly: frjulianssc@gmail.com



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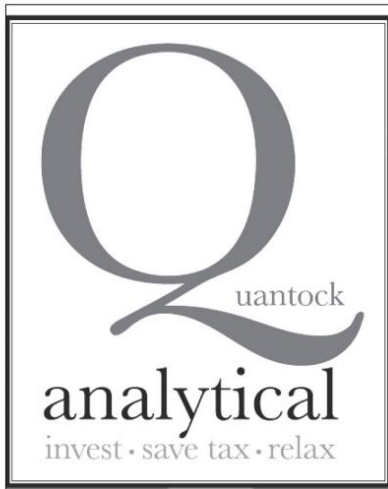
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DECEMBER



2023

FR JULIAN WRITES...

‘All shall be well, and all manner of thing [not a typo!] shall be well.’ This is a well-known saying from the writings of Mother Julian of Norwich (c1343-c1416). She was an anchoress in Norwich, and the first known female author, writing ‘Revelations of Divine Love’. Falling dangerously ill and receiving the Last Rites of the Church, as a crucifix was held over her, she felt numb and began to lose her sight, though she was granted 16 visions of Jesus which she recorded in her book.

It would be trite to say that all was well with her as she lived another 40 or so years, but rather all was well because she received consoling visions of her Lord, which she recorded for posterity, and have brought consolation ever since. Julian lived in a time of turmoil, but her theology was optimistic and spoke of God's benevolence towards everyone and love in terms of joy and compassion. *Revelations of Divine Love* contains a message of optimism based on the certainty of being loved by God and of being protected by his Providence.

Her message is important today as, like Julian, we appear to live in a time of turmoil, international and national, and perhaps even domestic. Life seems to be encroached by an increasing darkness and sometimes it can feel too much for some. Increasing pressure is being put on families and businesses as financial hardship continues, exacerbated by the desire to be generous at Christmas. We might have to draw our horns in, but then we need to consider what those in Gaza or Ukraine are facing, what the many homeless and helpless of our society endure all around us, as Christmas festivities abound all around us, and have done for weeks already. I am far from being a killjoy, but it is easy to get over-Christmased, and overwhelmed.

There will be another magazine covering Christmas and the New Year, which means this issue can focus on the season of Advent. Although its themes of death, judgement, heaven and hell may not appear to make it so, the underlying context of Advent is that of hope. It is hope that can break the power of darkness and enable us to face the 'Four Last Things' with greater understanding and positivity.

At the bottom of Pandora's box, and the last to emerge, was hope. The late Archbishop of South Africa wrote 'Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.' Remember how he, as a black man, had to endure apartheid, and was instrumental in its eradication. But St Paul puts a theological perspective on 'hope' proclaiming its reality and not some vague, fingers-crossed sort of wishful thinking, like winning the Lottery. Hope has real substance, as real as you or me, and that's because hope has been given a human form – Christ.

Whereas many people think of Advent as a countdown to Christmas (why do Advent calendars only have 24 windows?!), and yes, it is at Christmas we celebrate the birth of true hope, Advent is a reminder that Christ will come again in glory to judge both the living and the dead, as we profess in the Creed. It is then that 'all shall be well' because hope will be fully realised.

Christ will come to judge us, living and departed as all creation ceases to be, as we ponder on the 'Four Last Things'. The trouble is – or one them – is that we confuse justice with vengeance. 'Lock 'em up and throw away the key' is often the mantra of some who think this way. But Christ will judge with justice, compassion and infinite love, and died and rose for us so that we might enter into the fullness of his life. His resurrection gives us all hope, now and for eternity.

As we enter into the season of Advent, may you all be truly filled with the joy of Christian hope.

With my prayers and good wishes

Fr Julian

DECEMBER SAINTS - Fr Julian's idiosyncratic selection of saints

1st St Edmund Campion (1540-1581) was a priest of the Society of Jesus (a Jesuit), who ministered secretly under Elizabeth I. He was discovered, arrested and tried for treason, being hung, drawn and quartered at Tyburn. He was declared a saint in 1970.



4th St John Damascene (675/6-?749) was born Yūḥana ibn Manṣūr ibn Sarjūn, but known as John Damascene. He was an Arab Christian monk, priest, hymn writer, and defender of the faith. Born and raised in Damascus, the precise date and place of his death is not known, though tradition places it at his monastery, Mar Saba, near Jerusalem on 4 December 749.



6th St Nicholas (270-343) St Nicholas was the bishop of Myra (today in Turkey). Traditionally he gave money for a father to give a dowry to his three daughters, otherwise destined for prostitution, or reviving three pickled children, or calming a storm. It was probably the latter that caused fishermen from Bari in Italy to steal most of his skeleton and build a basilica for them in their home town; the remainder were taken away by venetians during the First Crusade. His association with children gave rise to his being synonymous with Christmas and morphing into 'Fr Christmas'. I've been to Bari...

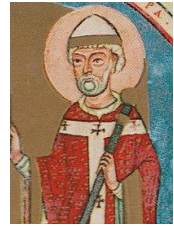
7th St Ambrose (c339-397) was one of the most influential ecclesiastical figures of the 4C. He opposed both paganism and also the heresy of Arianism, and was an innovative hymn-writer. He became Bishop of Milan, and is among the four great 'Doctors of the Church'.



8th The Immaculate Conception This refers to the conception of Mary, not her Son (25 March). All human beings are stained with 'original sin', the result of Adam and Eve's disobedience. However, the human Jesus was completely sinless, so could not have 'inherited' sin. It was only in 1854 that it was declared a 'dogma' of the RC Church, and although dismissed by Protestants as being 'unbiblical' its observation is common

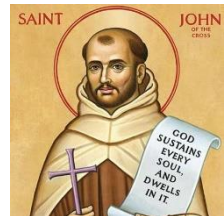
in many Western and Eastern churches.

11th St Damasus (305-384) was the Pope who presided over the forming of the bible as we know it today, and supported St Jerome in his translation of it into Latin. He also fostered relations between the Church of Rome and the Church of Antioch.



13th St Lucy (283-304) Lucy was martyred in the persecution of Christians under the Roman Emperor Diocletian. She lived in Syracuse in the south east of Sicily, where there is evidence of her in the Catacombs of St John in that place. (I've been there, too!) *Some* of her bones remain in Sicily, others have been stolen from the 8th C. Some ended up in Venice, where they were moved when a new railway station was constructed. The most recent theft of them was in 1981. Thieves stole all her bones, except her head. Police recovered them five weeks later, on her feast day. Other parts of the corpse have found their way to Rome, Naples, Verona, Lisbon, Milan, as well as Germany and France.

14th St John of the Cross (1542-1591) Born Juan de Yepes y Álvarez he was a Spanish Catholic priest, mystic, and a Carmelite friar of converso origin. John of the Cross is known for his writings. He was mentored by and corresponded with the older Carmelite, Teresa of Ávila. He was canonized by Pope Benedict XIII in 1726. In 1926, he was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Pius XI, and is also known as the 'mystical doctor'.



Post-Christmas December saints next issue!

HELP NEEDED!



Hopefully, the Crib Service on Christmas Eve will be well-attended, with hordes of excited children – and parents! If you can help greet the families and help with stewarding toddlers with crib figures, lots of people holding lighted candles, please let John Godley or Jenni Llewellyn know! Thank you.

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Below are the Sundays, readings, themes and Saints days for December.

1 S. Edmund Campion, Priest, Martyr (1581)

3 ADVENT SUNDAY *Theme: Waiting for the Lord*

Readings: Isaiah 64.1-9; 1 Corinthians 1.3-9; Mark 13.24-37

4 Mon S. John Damascene, Monk & Teacher (749)

6 Wed S. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (326)

7 Thu S. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (397)

8 Fri CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY

10 ADVENT 2 *Theme: The Good News*

Readings: Isaiah 40.1-11; 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8

11 Mon S. Damasus, Pope (384)

13 Wed S. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr (304)

14 Thu S. John of the Cross, Poet, Teacher (1591)

17 ADVENT 3 *O Sapientia (Wisdom) Theme: John the Baptist*

Readings: Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11; 1 Thess. 5.16-24; John 1.6-8, 19-28

18 Mon *O Adonai*

19 Tue *O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse)*

20 Wed *O Clavis David (Key of David)*

21 Thu *O Oriens (Morning Star)*

22 Fri *O Rex Gentium (King of the Nations)*

23 Sat *O Emmanuel* S. John de Kanty, Priest & Teacher (1473)

24 ADVENT 4 *Theme: The Visitation*

Readings: 2 Samuel 7.1-11 & 16; Romans 16.25-27; Luke 1.26-38

MIDNIGHT MASS *Theme: The Birth of Christ*

Readings: Isaiah 52.7-10; Hebrews 1.1-4; John 1.1-14

25 CHRISTMAS DAY *Theme: The Angels' Message*

Readings: Isaiah 62.6-12; Titus 3.4-7; Luke 2.8-20

26 Tue S. Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr

27 Wed S. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

28 Thu The Holy Innocents

29 Fri S. Thomas Beckett, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr (1170)

31 CHRISTMAS 1 *Theme: The Holy Family*

Readings: Gen. 15.1-6, 21.1-3; Heb. 11.8,11-12,17-19; Luke 2.22-end

THE O ANTIPHONS

The O Antiphons are used at Vespers during the last seven days of Advent, as shown on this month's calendar. They have been part of the liturgy since the very early church. I recently came across this poem based on the Advent antiphons.

ADVENT ANTIPHONS by Sr M Charlita, IHM

From Mary's sweet silence,
Come, Word mutely spoken!

Pledge of our real life,
Come, Bread yet unbroken!

Seed of the Golden Wheat,
In us be sown.

Fullness of true Light,
Through us be known.

Secret held tenderly,
Guarded with Love,

Cradled in purity,
Child of the Dove,

COME!



Jane Laurence



Compline will be held at 8.00pm on Wednesdays in Advent
in the Choir Vestry from Wednesday 6th December.



17th December	6.30pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	4.00pm	Crib Service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	10.00am	Family Mass with Carols

A RECIPE FOR DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS TREATS

There are two recipes this month. Both are easy to do and could be used as gifts for family and friends.

CHRISTMAS FUDGE

Ingredients

- 400g caster sugar
- 300ml double cream
- 40g unsalted butter
- 1tsp vanilla extract
- 10g white chocolate chips
- 5g gold stars and 5g red sprinkles (or other decorations)



Method

- Fill a small bowl with ice-cold water and have it next to the hob. Grease and line an 18cm-square cake tin with baking paper.
- Put the sugar, cream and butter in a large, heavy-based saucepan. Heat gently until all the sugar has dissolved and the butter has melted, then increase the heat and bring to the boil.
- Boil, without stirring, for 8-10 minutes. Test the mixture is done by dropping a little into the cold water – it should set into a ‘soft ball’ consistency.
- Remove the pan from the heat and allow the fudge to sit for 5 minutes. Beat in the vanilla using a wooden spoon, then beat for a further 4-5 minutes until thickened.
- Pour into the prepared tin and sprinkle over the chocolate chips, stars and sprinkles (or other decorations of your choice). Allow the fudge to completely cool, then chill in the fridge for 2 hours until set. Cut into small squares.

CHOCOLATE MINT CRISPS

Ingredients

100g plain chocolate

15g butter or margarine

Approx 1 tube Polo sweets (or other similar mint), crushed into small pieces



Method

- Melt the chocolate and butter.
- Add the crushed mint pieces (as many as you wish) to the chocolate and stir until well mixed.
- Spread the mixture thinly on to some baking paper.
- Leave to set for 5 – 10 minutes, then with a sharp knife cut into rectangles, squares or whatever shape you would like.
- Leave it to set in the fridge. Once set, carefully take your mint crisps off the baking paper and store in an airtight container.

Contributed by Jane Laurence



Saturday 2nd December
11am - 2pm

Raffle tickets are now available, please see Liz Hathway.

The following items for stalls would be welcome - cakes, savouries, pick-a-straw items, bottles (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) for bottle stall.

Please display a poster or distribute flyers in the vicinity if you can.

Help is also needed setting up on the day (from 9am) and packing away afterwards.

Please do all you can so support the day and make it a success.

ADVENT



Advent – from the Latin ‘adventus’, means ‘coming’ in the Christian Church calendar. It is the period of preparation for the second coming of Christ and it is also an expectant waiting for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. In Western churches Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas which is usually the Sunday nearest to November 30th: this year that’s December 3rd.

I regularly hear people say ‘Christmas isn’t what it used to be’, or ‘Christmas is only for children’, and also ‘Christmas has got too commercial!’ (In the latter case I’m afraid there’s only one reason for that – us – we spend too profligately and unwisely, thereby contributing to the myth becoming fact.) Of the first two comments you can also do something to change that perspective, for Advent and then Christmas can only ever be what you yourself put into it. Wait for it to come to you and you will undoubtedly feel justified in using the first of the comments above. So what can you do?

Prepare yourself: give yourself a quiet time of reflection each day. Also do some little thing toward you and your home’s readiness for the whole season of Advent and its culmination. Pray more often, attend church more, consider going to an additional service in the week as (apart from Mondays) there are daily services at Holy Trinity, join in whatever church has to offer, however small or large.

One of my greatest joys as an ‘oldie’, is attending the Crib Service. It is pure joy to watch those children solemnly carrying sheep and shepherds and all the other pieces up to the crib. For me also, I know that I am really in preparation when I go to the Carol Service. The final reading from John, in candlelight, never fails to send shivers of joy through me.

Finally, and with purpose, I would suggest preparing yourself and your home with an Advent wreath. There’s so much more significance to this than lighting a solitary Advent candle every evening as you sit down for your evening’s relaxation.

There are four candles (well five when you count the white Christ candle). You will need three purple and one pink. On the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays in Advent the purple candles are lit, and the pink is lit on the 3rd Sunday. In addition a white candle is lit for the first time on Christmas Day.

Why three purple candles? Firstly it is seen as the colour of Royalty and is thereby the Sovereignty of Christ. Also the presence of the colour purple keeps us focussed on the anticipatory nature of Advent – the King is coming. Purple is also the colour of penitence and fasting as Advent is a semi-penitential season. (You might recall it being the primary colour of Lent.) The pink/rose candle is for joy – Gaudete (Gaudete meaning ‘rejoice’) – on the 3rd Sunday. These four Sundays as the candle is lit have themes: hope, peace, joy, love. Your prayers and reflections for each week can follow these themes, bringing greater significance of the whole of the season and its culmination. Children can be encouraged with simple stories, songs and activities as each theme begins each week.



So, during Advent, you can ask for God’s help to draw near; begin to practise quiet times and reflections on that week’s theme; start gathering your essential items to prepare your home; don’t spend unwisely or unnecessarily; abstain from some pleasures and perhaps give any money saved to charity; finally enjoy all that your church has to offer you by joining in whenever possible.

I hope you have a thoughtful, prayerful and joyful Advent leading to a Christmas where none of the grumbles mentioned at the opening of this article affect you.

Jean Dalzell

LIGHTING AN ADVENT WREATH

In the above article Jean describes preparing an Advent wreath and the different themes for each Sunday of hope, peace, joy and love. Here are some short Bible readings and prayers you could use when each candle is lit.

HOPE

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." Isaiah 9:2

Dear Jesus, you are the hope in our messy world. This Advent, help us slow down, listen to your voice, and focus on what's really important. We place our hope in you as we prepare our hearts to celebrate your birth on Christmas. Amen.

PEACE

"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." Luke 2:4-7

Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the best version of ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

JOY

"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them." Luke 2:20

Dear Jesus, help us focus on you during this busy season. May we stay aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.

LOVE

"And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Let our hearts be open to you. Amen.

Jane Laurence

A QUIZ FOR December

1. In the Roman calendar of Romulus, December was which number month of the year?
2. Which saint has a feast day on 6 December?
3. Which famous event occurred on 16 December, 1773?
4. December has two birth flowers - can you name them?
5. Which famous queen was born on the 8th of December 1542 and became queen on the 14th of December of the same year?
6. Where does the word 'winter' come from?
7. How many times does the number 1 appear on an advent calendar with 24 doors?
8. What was created in December 1979, in Montreal, Canada, by Scott Abbott and Chris Haney after finding pieces of their Scrabble game missing?
9. What is the birthstone of December?
10. Which famous composer was born on the 16th of December 1770?
11. Which English explorer set out from England on his round-the-world voyage on the 13th of December 1577?
12. The first performance of Tchaikovsky's ballet The Nutcracker was held on the 18th of December of which year?
13. Who is patron saint of the Blind whose feast day is in December?
14. Where does the tradition of Christmas stockings come from?
15. In which decade did Henry Cole invent the first Christmas cards: 1840s, 1870s or 1890s?

Answers at end of Magazine

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ALL IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

It was:

- 800 years ago, on 25th December 1223 that St Francis of Assisi created the first nativity scene, in Greccio, Italy.
- 250 years ago, on 16th December 1773 that the Boston Tea Party took place. American patriots threw tea chests belonging to the British East India Company into Boston Harbour, as a protest against the British tax on tea.
- 200 years ago, on 23rd December 1823 that the poem *The Night Before Christmas* was first published (anonymously) in the *Sentinel* newspapers in New York. It was written by Clement Clarke Moore.
- 175 years ago - on 19th December 1848 that Emily Bronte, British novelist and poet, died of tuberculosis, aged 30.
- 100 years ago, on 6th December 1923 that Ramsay MacDonald became the first Labour Prime Minister.
- Also 100 years ago, on 31st December 1923 that the BBC first broadcast the chimes of Big Ben to welcome the New Year.
- 80 years ago, on 22nd December 1943 that Beatrix Potter, children's writer and illustrator, died.
- 65 years ago, on 5th December 1958 that Britain's first motorway, the Preston By-pass, was officially opened. (Now part of M6/M55.)
- 60 years ago, on 21st December 1963 that the Daleks made their first appearance on the British TV series *Doctor Who*.
- 40 years ago, on 10th December 1983 that Polish Solidarity leader Lech Walesa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. (It was accepted by his wife, as he feared he might not be allowed back into Poland if he travelled to Norway to accept it.)
- 30 years ago, on 30th December 1993 that Israel and the Vatican City agreed to recognise each other and established diplomatic relations.
- 25 years ago, on 10th December 1998 that the UN General Assembly listed anti-Semitism as a form of racism.
- Also 25 years ago, on 10th December 1998 that the Palestine Liberation Organisation voted to remove clauses in its charter that called for Israel's destruction.
- 10 years ago, on 5th December 2013 that Nelson Mandela died. This anti-apartheid revolutionary had become President of South African 1994-99. Winner of the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize.

From the *Parish Pump*



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12 May	The Maypole, Thurloxtton
9 June	Pickeridge Golf Club

All bookings are for 12.15. Please let me know if you want to come along, on the previous Sunday. If you have booked a space but are unable to attend please let me know as soon as possible so that I can amend the reservation with the venue.

Wendy Burge

A QUIZ FOR - Answers

1. 10th
2. St Nicholas
3. The Boston Tea Party
4. Narcissus and Holly
5. Mary Queen of Scots
6. It comes from the Germanic wintar which in turn is derived from the root wed meaning 'wet' or water'
7. 13
8. Trivial Pursuit
9. Turquoise
10. Ludwig van Beethoven
11. Sir Francis Drake
12. 1892
13. St Lucy. Tradition says that her eyes were removed when she was tortured and were miraculously restored when she was buried.
14. From St Nicholas who tradition says put gold coins in the stockings of three poor sisters
15. 1840s (1843)

MAGAZINE DEADLINE: Wednesday 13th December 2023



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Data Protection Officer	Mr David Watkins	(Church Office) 354800
Organist & Choir Trainer	Mr Simon Gaunt	01984 641584
Editor of 'Outlook'	Mrs Jane Laurence	01823 337890
'Outlook' advertising	Parish Administrator	01823 354800
Sacristan	Mr Peter Deal	01823 278385
Captain of Bellringers	Mrs Margaret Jordan	01823 289519
Church Flowers	Mrs Sylvia Paul	01823 279436
Hall Booking Secretary	Parish Administrator	01823 354800
Trinity Church School	Trinity School, South Street	01823 284128
Head of School	Ms Lisa Eadie	

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