



The Parish of St George Pontesbury

Rector: Currently Vacant

Families Worker: Mark Hackney
07980 951890

Welcome to Worship

Sunday 17th November

Second Sunday before Advent

A warm welcome to everyone joining us for worship today
Refreshments are served after the 10.30am service.

Service Today

10.30am

Said Holy Communion with hymns

Baptised and communicant members of all churches or Christian traditions
are invited to receive the Sacrament from the chancel step.

If you wish to receive a blessing, please come forward carrying this sheet.

The Week Ahead

Tues	19th	10.00am	Little Dragons
		2.30pm	Mothers Union in WER
		7.30pm	Deanery Alpha - Annscroft
Wed	20th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Fri	22nd	10.00am	Coffee
		6.00pm	Friday Club
		7.00pm	Youth Club

Today's Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Reading (Malachi 4: 1-2a)

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading (2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13)

A reading from the second letter to the Thessalonians.

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel (Luke 21: 5-19)

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"

And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Please pray for: The team of people who prepare, print and distribute the magazine every month.

Healing: Paul Griffiths, Stewart Swancott, Richard Lewis, Jean Gwilliam, Sheila Bebbington, Edna Crockett, Zack, Elizabeth Dennis, Joyce Hackney, Jon Wigley.

Departed: Monica Croxton

In Memoriam: Edith Brainch, Bernadette Adams, Isabelle Winter

Sunday 17th November – The Second Sunday before Advent

Malachi 4:1-2a; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19.

The passage from **Malachi** is part of a larger section describing the coming day of the Lord. The terror is very real but there is also hope for God's people. 'The sun of righteousness' is a key concept here. The burning sun of the Holy Land will do two things. It dispels the darkness and exposes everything to the light and its heat will burn away all evil. Righteousness and justice will then prevail, and this will include a healing of social divisions. This is a fitting conclusion to what the Jews consider the Law and the Prophets, and what is for Christians the Old Testament. In **2 Thessalonians**, Paul is addressing matters **within** the Christian community. Paul is an example for Christians. 'Idle' and 'idleness' may not even be the best translations of the original Greek. It can mean insubordination and irresponsibility. To take other Church members' food and not pay for it is a transgression and they place an unnecessary burden on the Christian community. **Luke's** Gospel shows Jesus on pilgrimage to 'his father's house' both when he was a child and when an adult. On the other hand, Jesus speaks ominous words at the temple. Jesus was acutely aware of the state of his times. He knew that his movement was causing hostility from other Jews and he experienced this himself and it helped bring him to the cross. After his death, this intensified and Saul, who later became Paul, was in the forefront of this persecution. Jesus could also read the signs of the times and he could see that the Jews were heading towards disaster with a likely showdown with the Romans. By the time Luke was writing his Gospel, the temple and Jerusalem had been destroyed in AD70 by the Romans in response to such a Jewish uprising.

"Blessed are you, Lord our God. You never leave us or forsake us. You are a present help in our troubles. You are our strength and salvation. In you, O Lord, we trust." (David Adam).

Notices

Deanery Alpha Course

The next session is on **Tuesday 19th November** in Annscroft church
All sessions will start at 7.30pm with tea, coffee and cake.
For more information, contact Mark - 07980 951890

Festival of Trees and Cribs - 5 - 8 December

We need cakes, tray bakes and mince pies, to offer as refreshments.
Please contact Mary Worrall (791069) if you are able to help.

Christingle Service - 4.30pm Sunday 8 December

Shrewsbury Food Bank

This week the Foodbank is asking for donations of tinned vegetables, soap, shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant and washing powder.
Thank you for your support!

Parish Visitors

Would you, or someone you know, appreciate some help or a visit from a friendly face? Maybe you are feeling lonely, in need of support or friendship? St George's Church has a team of friendly people who would love to visit you for whatever reason - if we can help, we will! Do contact us in confidence.... Phone Marion Elliott 01743 792256

Sunday Services in November & December

24 November	8.00am	Said Holy Communion
	10.30am	Café Church
1 December	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Sung Holy Communion
8 December	8.00am	No Service
	10.30am	Holy Communion

This Bulletin is on-line at: st-george.org.uk/services/regular-services/

Please send any notices or information by Thursday morning next week to:

Alison: 01743 860158 alisonbebb5@gmail.com