

JUBILATE

**CHRIST CHURCH BRAUNTON, COMBE MARTIN,
EMMANUEL ILFRACOMBE, LOXHORE AND MARWOOD**
December January

Praise to the God who clears the way
Preparing room and space;
For power and pride will lose their sway
As peace comes in their place.

Jan Berry

Singing the Faith 183

One of the messages of advent is summed up well in the first verse of this advent hymn. Advent is a time when we look forward to the second coming of Jesus, when the powerful and the proud will have to bow the knee to the King of all the Earth. Maybe this is a message that we especially need to hear this advent season, as the war in Ukraine rumbles on. Advent reminds us that there will come a time when even the most powerful person in the world will tremble before Jesus, who will come as judge, asking each of us to account for our words and actions.

However, this future judgement should not lead us to sit back and relax. At the heart of Jesus teaching about his second coming are the words "be prepared." We may feel that we can do little to change the injustices of our society but Jesus calls us to be active and vigilant; playing our small part in our town or village. This might mean supporting Encompass, the food bank or giving to a charity that works with those suffering from domestic abuse. As Christmas approaches and food shopping will be on our minds, we could try and buy some items that are Fairtrade accredited, knowing that this will help to make a difference for third world producers.

I hope that you will have a joyful advent as you await the coming of Jesus at Christmas time. I pray that your lives and homes will be filled with Christmas joy. But don't forget, today and every day, to be prepared and live out your faith in word and action.

God bless you all, **Jonathan**

Louise and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all your loved ones a joyful advent, a happy Christmas and a hopeful new year.

NEWS FROM THE ELDERS

We have just had our Church Meeting, which unfortunately I was unable to attend, and I sent a report from the Elders. So this will be almost the same!

You will be aware that we will be without a minister next year as Jonathan is leaving in the summer. The Circuit stationing process is ongoing, sadly we have not been matched with a minister in the first 'round', it is hoped that the second 'round' towards the end of November may produce a name. Rev. Jonathan has accepted the invitation to be Superintendent Minister in the Falmouth and Gwennap Circuit.

We are so blessed to have our own Worship Leaders, only three since the departure of Monica. It is the responsibility of the Elders to sort out 'Local Arrangement' services when they appear in the plan, usually one or two per quarter, and there are a few people who are prepared to help out on these occasions.

Sunday worship is now being held in the church hall and will carry on there throughout the winter months; this is to save on energy costs. We have tried out different seating patterns, and now that the stage has been cleared in the hall it seems to have solved the issue. Ruth's recent 100th birthday celebration was the first time we had used the hall on a Sunday, and it was such a joyous occasion and lovely to welcome her family and friends to the service. Ruth received cards and flowers and we all shared cake afterwards, we even managed to sing 'Happy Birthday' twice!

We have been pleased to welcome Margaret Cowell on some Wednesdays to play for services. Alison and Sue C. have been to Sticklepath church for a refresher course in operating the digital hymnal, but thanks to Margaret it will hopefully not need to be used too often.

There were a good number from both churches attending the recent joint service with South Street held in the afternoon. We enjoyed refreshments and fellowship with each other both before and after the service. South

Street are reopening their food bank, which will operate from their home church, and any donations for this can be left in the box in the vestibule.

A Bible study group has started meeting fortnightly after Wednesday worship to which everyone is warmly invited to join. All you need is your bible and a packed lunch. We have been reading again some of the teachings of Jesus, and so far have looked at the parables of the Prodigal son and the Good Samaritan, also the story of Zacchaeus. Although the words are very familiar, we have had some really interesting discussions, sharing thoughts on how we can relate to the stories in our modern world.

Last month John Robinson and Sue Macbeth led a special service at Christ Church to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the URC. We were pleased to welcome visitors from other churches and old friends from further afield.

The recent Climate Justice Day was well supported with 50 attending from many churches and community organisations. We listened to an excellent panel of speakers and were also able to join in various smaller discussion groups. Thanks must go to Margaret Robinson for organising such an interesting and inspiring day.

It is great to see how links are being forged between the Community Cafe and the Church, due to the efforts of Sue and her team of helpers. It is hoped that the planned Christingle service will encourage people to attend worship, as they did for the Harvest celebration.

Andy gave a comprehensive Property Report to the church meeting. He explained that there has been no further progress with the plans to replace the Upper Hall windows or the possibility of converting part of the old building into flats. The latter could release money for replacing the Church Hall roof and installing solar panels. These plans are with the URC Property Committee for their consideration. The church meeting agreed to the sale of a small area of land to a developer at the old Methodist graveyard in Hills View.

It does seem a little early, but the Elders would like to send their warmest wishes to all our readers for a peaceful and blessed Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year.

Liz Preece

Future Dates:

Wednesday November 30th...Bible Study at 11.30. After worship.

Saturday December 3rd Church Coffee morning from 10.00 to 12.00.

Sunday December 4th. Hospice 'Light up a life' service at Fremington Methodist church at 6.00pm.

Tuesday December 6th Hospice service at St Philip & St James' Church, Ilfracombe at 6.30pm.

Friday December 9th..... Hospice service at Grosvenor Church, Barnstaple, at 7.00pm.

Sunday December 11th Gift Service at 10.30am for NDADA – please bring unwrapped gifts for children and their Mums. Also Christingle!

Wednesday December 14thCarols with the Worship Team at 10.30.

Saturday December 17th Christmas Craft morning – all welcome. More details soon!

Sunday December 18th Carol Service at 10.30 led by Rev Jonathan

Wednesday December 21stVillage Christmas Carols in the main car park at 7.00pm.

Sunday December 25th Christmas Day service at 10.30am

Sunday 10.30am Preachers for December

4th	11th	18th	25th
Rev. Stephen Caddick Holy Communion	Worship Leaders Gift Service Also Christingle	Rev. Jonathan Froggatt Carols	Rev. Jonathan Froggatt

Wednesday 10.30am Preachers for December

7th	14th	21st	28th
Rev. Jonathan Froggatt	Worship Leaders Carols	No Service	No Service

SOCIAL & OUTREACH

As I write this, I am looking forward to visiting Monica & David. Think I'd better check we are on the right track with what we are planning! Jenny Dellow's wonderful flower demonstration will have already taken place by the time you read this, so some of you will be enjoying the arrangements won in the raffle, and everyone can enjoy the Advent Wreath/Ring made specially for us by Jenny.

The Community Café continues on Thursday afternoons, 2.30 to 4.30, providing activities, lovely cakes and a warm welcome.

The December Coffee Morning will be on the 10th, as the village market is held on the 4th – all the usual stalls and a raffle with a Christmassy flavour.

A Christmas Craft and Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 17th December, from 10 'til 12. Everyone is welcome – and all these events provide a Warm Space; very important at the present time.

Barbara Davidson

LADIES PRAYER GROUP

Daily Devotion for Advent

StF 175

Light of the world,
you stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see
beauty that made this heart adore you,
hope of a life spent with you.

Tim Hughes

We praise you living God, for these days of Advent, for the opportunity they offer to reflect on scripture, and to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of your Son.

As we set out on our journey, may we find the stillness that is your presence with us, leading us on to Bethlehem where our spirits can soar towards the light of your eternal love, revealed in the Christ Child.

Amen

Roots Resources

We have not planned another date for the Ladies Prayer Group, but we are planning something new for us and the Church family.

Rosemary Kerswell (523671)

Christmas Day Dinner

You are invited to join us on Christmas Day for a festive lunch with all the trimmings, at Southmead Primary School in Braunton. Young or old, families or on your own, if you would like to come or would like to nominate someone else, please let us know by calling 07715927721 before 10/12/22. No payment is needed. It is fully funded by Ask for Jake, a local mental health charity based in Braunton.

Christmas Cards

We shall be offering our free Christmas card distribution service again at the church this year for church regulars. This will be available on Sunday 4th, 11th and 18th December.

Cards must be for church members and be fully addressed.

Remember that as many go away to see their families at Christmas time the earlier the cards are given to us the more likely they will successfully reach their recipients.

Mervyn Kerswell

Every time you smile at someone,
It is an action of love,
a gift to the person,
a beautiful thing.

By Mother Teresa.



What is Loss and Damage?

Climate change is amplifying the frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme weather events such as flooding, heatwaves, and cyclones and slow onset events such as sea-level rise, desertification, biodiversity loss, and melting glaciers. The impacts from these extreme events can be devastating on peoples' lives and livelihoods, as well as having wider economic consequences. These effects cannot be avoided through adapting to climate change, and this is what is defined as 'loss and damage'. 'Loss and damage' is occurring more rapidly in the less developed countries who have contributed least to the emission of carbon into the atmosphere.

Asks of the UK Government:

- To support the creation of an international climate finance mechanism which will pay for climate change-related loss and damage
- To lead efforts on mobilising finance from wealthy nations and high emitters for climate change-related loss and damage.
- To reinstate the 0.7% GNI aid target,
- Reverse the closure of quality UK-funded adaptation programmes
- Direct funding for climate adaptation to local communities
- As COP President champion the delivery of a plan which increases adaptation finance, both quantity and quality - ensuring it is grants based and accessible to the poorest communities.

This is climate justice and we met to discuss this at our North Devon Climate Justice Day at the end of October.

The day was sponsored by Christian Aid and 50 people from churches to include Methodist, Anglican, URC, Baptist and Quaker and the local community in North Devon, met to plan our future role in working together to raise awareness of the importance of climate justice in a world where every one of us is now increasingly affected by the effects of climate change.



Eco Church lunchtime meeting

The panel:

Revd. Rob Weston, URC minister and Eco Church advocate

Revd. Dr. Susan Durber, URC minister and World Council of Churches
President for Europe

Lydia Perris, Social Justice and Creation Care Officer for Exeter Diocese

Derrick Spear, member of Braunton Parish Council and North Devon District
Council

Group discussion workshop



HOW can we at Christ Church fulfil our responsibilities as Christians locally in Braunton? Do we talk and interact with other churches and groups in the community, who are all part of the world order affected by climate change.

'Everybody is affected by climate change and we're all in it together' (quote from member of afternoon discussion group)

COMBE MARTIN METHODIST

Sunday 10.30 am Preachers for December

4th	11th	18th	25th
Rev. Jonathan Froggatt Holy Communion	Peter Edwards	Martin Reardon	Sue Kendall

Greetings to our sisters and brothers!

All of us at Combe Martin hope you have joyful times at Christmas,
a real awareness of God coming to be with us,
and good things to look forward to in the New Year!

We may be few in number but our fellowship is strong and we also look
outwards to support people around us as well as we can.

We have no plans at the moment to have a 'Light up a Life' tree this
Christmastime [we have not been asked to host a service since Covid hit],
but we have a Church Council meeting coming up so that might change!
However, we shall enjoy joining with our other Christian brothers and
sisters in Combe Martin as we add our voices and a couple of readers to
the Village Carol Service on Sunday 18th December at 6.30pm and as we
join in with Carols around the village Christmas Tree on Adam's Hay
[if it's dry enough!!] on Tuesday 20th December. Some of us might also
attend the Christingle Service at St Peter's on 24th December at 4.00pm

We have a service on the plan for Christmas Day at 10.00am but we may
decide, again, that it is better to join with our friends at St Peter's that day.

As you can see we are quite laid back here, and very flexible!
Being a small number and with some of us visiting family often or
travelling, we sometimes have to be pragmatic about bringing a preacher
'across the hill' or heating our building, just for a very small congregation,
though we do always advertise a closure on the Facebook page 'What's on
in Combe Martin' as well as on our own website and noticeboard, as early
as possible.

Sue Kendall

EMMANUEL ILFRACOMBE

Sunday 10.30am Preachers for December

4th	11th	18th	25th
Rev. John Robinson Holy Communion	Martin Reardon	Eff Poole/Jenny Newman	Worship Group Carols

Hello everyone. As I write it is a lovely day, blue sky, calm --- I was beginning to think it was the monsoon season!

Life at Emmanuel is in winter mode, but that doesn't mean to say all is quiet. The building next door (with which we share a party wall), the old Alexandra Theatre, is surrounded by scaffolding and work has begun to demolish it and replace with a brand new Premier Inn. At the moment there is a big hole in the middle, the demolition men are working from the middle out. Services continue as usual in the Gallery Room.

As yet Christmas celebrations amongst ourselves have to be decided. Of course, the usual Carol service on December 18th at 10.30 am is going ahead as is the Christmas Day service at 10.00 am.

We joined with other churches in the town on Remembrance Sunday. The wreaths were laid at the War Memorial first, then on to the Parish Church for the service which was well attended.

It occurred to me that as I write this there are only thirty six more days until Christmas. Martin and I wish you all a Happy Christmas, and hope and pray you all have a healthy, happy, peaceful New Year.

And finally: - Our local origami class has had to close due to lack of members. With rising costs and falling support, the organisers simply had no choice but to fold.

Rosie.

MARWOOD

At 11am

December Preachers

4th Sue Kendall

11th Mary Burgess

18th Rev. Jonathan Froggatt **6pm**

25th Rev. Jonathan Froggatt **9.30am**

15th Covenant Service

Flower List December

4th Eileen Norman

11th Marion Dymond

18th Barbara Johns

25th Vivien Chugg

Flower List January

1st Julia Chugg

8th Margaret Johnson

15th Christine Smith

22nd Janet Richards

29th Eileen Norman

We had a lovely Harvest Festival led by Brenda Prentice. It was followed by Afternoon Tea with people giving donations if they wanted any fruit or veg.

Hazel Watts, one of our members, passed away on 30th September. Her funeral service was at Marwood Methodist on 26th October followed by cremation. We wish to remember John and the family in our prayers.

We will hold a Bingo evening on Saturday 10th December at 7pm. With prizes and followed by refreshments.

Our Get-together Coffee Morning will be on Thursday December 15th when we welcome Rev. Jonathan and Rev. Margaret Johnson as our speakers between 11am and 12 Noon. There will be a Bring and Buy stall.

On Sunday December 18th we will hold our Candlelit Carol Service at 6pm led by Rev. Jonathan Froggatt followed by Mince Pies and Cream.

The Christmas Day service at 9.30am will be led by Rev. Jonathan Froggatt.

On Sunday January 15th at 11.00am there will be a Joint Covenant service at this Church led by Jonathan Froggatt.

Marwood Methodist Church wishes all friends a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Christine Smith

LOXHORE

Sunday 10am Preachers for December

4th	11th	18th	25th
Peter Edwards	Rev. John Robinson	Sue Kendall	Brenda Prentice

A quiet time here in Loxhore, Covid is still here in the Village so we are still being a little cautious at the same time as trying to get back to something like normal.

The Combined Carol Service this year will be at St Michael's and All Angels on Monday 19th December at 6.30pm. This always sets the mood for Christmas, when hopefully people will begin to think about what Christmas is really about!!

We wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas 🌟 from Loxhore.
Carole

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