



Sunday 30th November 2025

Advent Sunday

You are most welcome.

A message to new visitors is found on page 4.

Our 10:30am order of service begins on page 5.

8:00am Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*)

Celebrant: The Rector

10:30am Parish Eucharist (*Common Worship*)

Celebrant: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Setting: 'A People's Mass - Anthony Gregory Murray with Glastonbury Kyrie Moger Gospel Acclamation "From the First Sunday of Advent"

Hymns: 6, 7, 9

Music at Communion:

'Prayer for the Blessing of Light (from 'Veni Emmanuel')

arr Malcolm Archer

'The advent of our God' *St Thomas*

Postlude: 'Chorale Prelude on "Nun komm' der Heiden

Heiland" BWV 661' *JS Bach*

For your prayers

At This Time

Gillian Kullman, Jennie Frampton, Lindsay Gorringe, Chris Pratt, Jeremy Connor, David Robertson, Margaret Thompson, HM The King, the bereaved and those suffering during warfare.

Recently Departed Year's Mind

Pat Teakle, Margaret Griffiths, Martin Ellis, Jenifer Kingsmill
Edwin Thomas Peart, Leonard Alfred Champs, Kate Maggie Hendry, Lillian Louisa Ellen Thornton, Leslie Douglas Nower, Herbert James Sneller, Gwen Stacey, Barbara Claringbold, Robert Maxtone Graham, Brenda Judith O'Brien, Heather Louise Couchman

Reflection for the week

The Rt Revd Dr Michael Turnbull

Today, and for the next three Sundays, we will hear readings from Isaiah. Why Should we sit here on a bleak winter morning listening to the outpourings of a man who lived in a foreign country 700 years before Jesus was born?

Let me offer three reasons. The first is because of the beauty of Isaiah's writing, even in translation. Its worth letting our imaginations have space to dwell in every metaphor whether it's one of warning or hope. Swords into ploughs. Wolves playing with lambs. cows and bears as friends. In the middle of it all-a little child. A road through the desert. Let's take time to dwell this language in the coming weeks.

Secondly, it's informative to hear how the visions of Isaiah have shaped the political scenery of the Middle East down the centuries. Israel has always fell under threat. In Isaiah's time it was from Assyria in the North, Babylon in the East and Egypt in the West. Today those nations are represented by Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Throughout it all Israel has remained, if not intact, at least a significant nation, not only in the Middle East but in the world. Isaiah's history takes us through the triumphs and

failures of successive kings. At the Centre of it all is their unquenchable belief that Israel is not like any other nation but has a divine call which informs their ultimate destiny. It is to be the means by which the world is redeemed from its systemic failure to be one with God. Israel's rituals in the Temple in Jerusalem, echoed in Synagogues through the world, reinforce this sense of vocation. For devout Jews, this is why the defence of the nation is vitally important: Whether Successive politicians share the same motive is another question.

The third reason why we read Isaiah is that the writing contains a slow burn of anticipation. The way God is developing his act of redemption is through a Messiah who will, not only lead his people into peace and plenty, but also complete Israel's vocation as the vehicle of God's redemption.

Take this Service paper home and read Isaiah again in your daily quiet moments. Go up to the high mountain with him and catch the vision of one who will bring peace - through the smoke and bombs, through the glitter and black Fridays, and find a way through the wilderness. That is the hope of Advent. The Messiah is coming.

New to St Clements?

Welcome! We're delighted that you're here

There has been a place of Christian prayer on this site for more than 1,000 years. All are welcome at our services - whatever your background and whatever your faith.

Many of the words of our service can be found from page five of this booklet. Feel free to join in with the words in bold, and to stand, kneel, or sit as you feel able and comfortable. Don't worry about getting it 'right', we're all learning to pray!

The service will start with notices and a hymn. We then bring to mind the times we've not loved God, our neighbours, and ourselves fully. Though it can be uncomfortable admitting we are sinners, we want to be honest with God (and ourselves) that we're not perfect. We can trust that God is utterly loving and forgiving.

A series of readings from scripture follows, and then the sermon, in which the preacher attempts to break open the scriptures and apply them to our lives today.

We pray for the needs of the Church and world, and then the altar is prepared. A collection will be taken, as 'giving' is an important part of

our Christian lives, but don't worry if you're unable to contribute as a visitor.

The priest leads the Eucharistic Prayer - the prayer of thanksgiving - during which we offer bread and wine to God, and He transforms it into the Body and Blood of Christ.

All baptised Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion (it's fine to only receive the Body or Blood if you prefer. For reasons of hygiene please don't dip the wafer into the chalice). Or do come forward holding this booklet to receive a blessing. **If you need a gluten-free wafer please let someone at the door know before the service.**

We share refreshments in the Sunley Room (accessed up the ramp behind the organ), and you are most welcome to stay. Toilets may also be found here.

The Church is open daily for peace and prayer. If you'd like to know more about our worship or faith, do talk to people in the congregation or one of the priests. You can also visit our website, www.stclementschurchsandwich.org.uk

Music at 10:30am today

Following the celebrations of last Sunday's Patronal Festival, the music for this Advent Sunday is more reflective and incorporates plainsong melodies. As has become a tradition here in the Advent season, the opening hymn is replaced by verses from words from Isaiah 48 *Pour down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.*

This monastic way of singing is a type of unadorned single-line chant often called Gregorian chant. It has a free, unmeasured rhythm based on the words of the text, rather than a strict musical metre

This year and in great contrast during Advent we are singing a response during the intercessions. It is the Kyrie eleison and this music is a traditional melody from Ukraine. You are encouraged to join in!

Plainchant continues in the first communion piece as a setting based on the great Advent hymn *Veni Emmanuel*. The contemporary composer Malcolm Archer has set words from "*The promise of Glory*". As we enter a period of darkness the words implore us to be roused from the sleep of sin and be ready to enter his Kingdom where songs of praise for ever sound. It is followed by an Advent hymn – "The advent of our God with eager prayers we greet" by the turn of the 18th century

French hymnwriter Charles Coffin (pronounced co-fenh) who became the Rector of the University of Paris. He wrote and translated many hymns from Latin, later published by Cardinal Henry Newman, but was at considerable odds with church and state in those troublesome French periods of history.

The outgoing voluntary is another one of Bach's organ preludes based on Lutheran hymn tunes - *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* ("Saviour of the nations, come). He wrote a number of different preludes on this hymn tune, some quiet and reflective, others boisterous as is this one, with the main tune being played in long notes in the pedal part.

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Order of Service

The Gathering

Notices are given before the service. Stand as the Choir enters. They sing the first part of the ancient 'Advent Prose'. All are invited to join in the second time they sing:

Pour down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord, and remember not our sins forever: your holy cities have become a desert, Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation; our holy and beautiful house, where our fathers praised you.

Pour down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord be with you and also with you.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the

inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confessing our Sins

The Celebrant introduces a period of silence in which all call to mind their sins. Then all kneel or sit.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The Choir sing 'Kyrie/Christe Eleison' ('Lord/Christ have mercy'). Absolution is given, then the Celebrant says: Let us pray: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which

your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

The Scriptures

Isaiah 2.1–5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say,

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.’

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

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

Remain seated as the Choir sing Psalm 122

*I was glad when they said unto me :
We will go into the house of the Lord.*

*Our feet shall stand in thy gates : O
Jerusalem.*

*Jerusalem is built as a city : that is at
unity in itself.*

*For thither the tribes go up, even the
tribes of the Lord : to testify unto Is-
rael, to give thanks unto the Name of
the Lord.*

*For there is the seat of judgement :
even the seat of the house of David.*

*O pray for the peace of Jerusalem :
they shall prosper that love thee.*

*Peace be within thy walls : and plen-
teousness within thy palaces.*

*For my brethren and companions'
sakes : I will wish thee prosperity.*

*Yea, because of the house of the Lord
our God : I will seek to do thee good.*

Romans 13.11–14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for

the flesh, to gratify its desires.
This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn Number 6

*Turn to face the Book of the Gospels
as it moves to the centre of the nave.
'Alleluia' is sung.*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 24.36–44

But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord

is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour. This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

A sermon is preached.

The Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come

again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Intercessions & Peace

Kneel or sit to pray. Kyrie Eleison (Lord, have mercy) is sung after each petition.

At the end: Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Stand for the Peace The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.

The altar is prepared while we sing.

A collection, taken as the congregation arrived, is offered up to God. If you would like to make a donation please leave it in the safe beside the north porch after the



service, use the cardreader there, scan the QR code here, or head to : www.stclementsandwich.org.uk/donate Thank you.

Hymn Number 7

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Celebrant prays over the offerings, and all respond Amen.

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Celebrant prays the Preface, leading into:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. *All kneel or sit*

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of Mary, Clement, Peter, Paul, and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. *All say boldly: Amen.*

Preparation for Communion

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into

temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

Jesus, lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper. **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

In Advent, we say We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.

Holy Communion

Sidespeople will indicate when to move for Holy Communion. All who are baptised are welcome to receive Communion, or do bring this booklet with you to indicate that you wish to receive a blessing instead.

*After all have received Holy Communion, **Stand** as the Celebrant says* O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *All say* Amen.

All say Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Hymn Number 9

Going out into the World

All remain standing for the blessing and dismissal:

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Celebrant blesses and dismisses the congregation.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ, Amen!**

The organ postlude is part of our act of worship, please remain quiet. If you are able, do please stay for refreshments after the service - served from The Sunley Room (behind the organ)

FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

A beautiful service of
Advent hymns,
anthems, and readings
to prepare the way
for Christmas

Sunday 30th November 6:30pm
St Clement's, Sandwich
Followed by refreshments, all welcome



ST CLEMENT'S PARISH CHURCH
CHURCH ST ST CLEMENT/KNIGHTRIDER STREET,
SANDWICH, KENT. CT13 9ER

WWW.STCLEMENTSANDWICH.ORG.UK

CHRISTMAS

AT ST CLEMENT'S

**NINE LESSONS
& CAROLS**
SUNDAY 21ST DEC. + 6:50^{PM}

**CHILDREN'S
CHRISTINGLE CRIB
SERVICE**

CHRISTMAS EVE + 4:00^{PM}

MIDNIGHT MASS
CHRISTMAS EVE + 11:00^{PM}

HOLY COMMUNION
CHRISTMAS DAY + 8:00^{AM}

**FAMILY CHRISTMAS
CELEBRATION**
CHRISTMAS DAY + 11:00^{AM}



www.stclementsandwich.org.uk

Advent Coffee Morning
This coming Saturday 6th December
from 10am to 12noon
in the Church Hall

Cake Stall - Bottle Tombola - Raffle

Entrance £3 to include a hot drink and piece of cake

Donations would be welcomed for raffle prizes and wine etc for the tombola - boxes for these will be available in church from Sunday 30th November. Also, if you are able to make cakes for us, please let Ros Daniels know (secretary@stclementssandwich.org.uk) – these can be delivered to Coffee Pot on Friday 5th or Church Hall before 9.30 am on Saturday 6th December. **THANK YOU**

Christmas Cards

If you are able, please take some of the Christmas cards on the table by the font to deliver on the marked streets. Thank you. We also have the return of the St Clement's Postbox - you may post cards for members of the congregation, and these may be collected from the Coffee Room. Thank you to those who sort these cards week by week.

Pastoral Group Gathering

After the 10:30am Parish Eucharist on 7th December, all who would like to express an interest in being part of the new Pastoral Group are warmly invited to come and have an informal chat with Derek and Sebastian.

We will be sharing our vision for the group, outlining our ideas, and explaining the pathway for training and commissioning. This is simply an initial conversation, and everyone is very welcome, even if you just want to hear more about the ideas.

Zoom Compline

Next takes place on Tuesday 23rd December at 7:30pm. Speak to Derek Kirkaldie or see www.stclementsandwich.org.uk/zoom-compline

Parish Diary

November

Sunday 30th		Advent Sunday <i>Normal morning services for Advent, then:</i> 6:30pm 'From Darkness to Light: An Advent Carol Service', a special service to enter Advent with choral anthems, and beautiful Advent readings and hymns. This year taking place in St Clement's, all encouraged to attend
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December

Sunday 7th	cNoon (After 10:30am)	Pastoral Care Group Gathering <i>An informal conversation for those interested in the Pastoral Care Group, see p13</i>
Tuesday 9th	7:30pm	A Service of Remembrance before Christmas <i>A special service, organised jointly with Dilnot Smith and Sons Funeral Directors, of music and readings to remember departed loved ones at a time which can be difficult for many who are grieving.</i>
Sunday 21st	6:30pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols <i>A highlight of the year, the traditional service recalling the story of Christ's birth in word and music</i>
Tuesday 23rd	7:30pm	Zoom Compline <i>December's Zoom Compline will reflect on Advent, as we draw nearer to Christmas. Speak to Derek or see www.stclementsandwich.org.uk/zoom-compline</i>
Wednesday 24th (10:00am Holy Communion as normal)	4:00pm	Children's Christingle Crib Service <i>Children and families are especially welcome to this interactive service celebrating light in the world</i>
	11:00pm	Midnight Mass <i>The traditional way to bring in Christmas, a Eucharist celebrated with the Choir and Carols</i>
Thursday 25th December	8:00am	Holy Communion <i>A thirty minute said service, according to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer</i>
	11:00am	Family Christmas Celebration <i>Readings and carols to celebrate Christmas Day</i>

Parish Directory

PARISH OFFICE

Caroline Flynn
Parish Administrator

St Clement's Hall,
Church Street St Clement's,
Sandwich. CT13 9EH.

Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:30pm (1:00pm Fridays)

020 3089 4745 - please leave a message with BT Callminder.

admin@stclementsandwich.org.uk

www.stclementsandwich.org.uk

THE RECTOR

The Reverend Sebastian Hamilton
fr.sjm.hamilton@gmail.com + 01304 746033

Day of Rest: Monday, Study Day: Saturday

CHURCHWARDENS

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Howard Evans + h.evans@stclementsandwich.org.uk + 01304 449961

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Ros Daniels + Secretary@stclementsandwich.org.uk

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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Julian Sampson + sampson@supanet.com

SACRISTAN

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The week ahead

Monday 1st December - [Feria](#)

Tuesday 2nd December - [Feria](#)

Wednesday 3rd December - [Feria](#)

10:00am Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*)

11:00am Internment of Ashes Margaret Alice Barker

Thursday 4th December - **Feast of Nicholas Ferrar, D, R**

1:30pm Service of Thanksgiving for Margaret Griffiths

Friday 5th December - [Feria](#)

9:45am Morning Prayer

From 10:00am Coffee Pot (*Parish Hall*)

2:00pm Service of Thanksgiving for Martin Ellis

Saturday 6th December - **Feast of St Nicholas, B**

10:00am Advent Coffee Morning

Sunday 7th December - [The Second Sunday in Advent](#)

8:00am Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer*)

10:30am Parish Eucharist (Common Worship)

Celebrant: The Reverend Doctor Jeanne Males

Preacher: The Rector

<i>Day</i>	<i>Morning Prayer</i>	<i>Evening Prayer</i>
<i>Monday</i>	Ps 47, 147. 1-12 + Ezekiel 47.1-12	Ps 87,961 + John 1.35-42
<i>Tuesday</i>	Ps 80, 82 + Isaiah 26.1-13	Ps 74, 75 + Revelation 20
<i>Wednesday</i>	Ps 5,7 + Isaiah 28.1-13	Ps 76,77 + Revelation 21.1-8
<i>Thursday</i>	Ps 42, 43+ Isaiah 28.14-end	Ps 40, 46+ Revelation 21.9-21
<i>Friday</i>	Ps 25, 26 + Isaiah 29.1-14	Ps16, 17 + Revelation 21.22- 22.5
<i>Saturday</i>	Ps 9, (10) + Isaiah 29.15-end	Ps 27,28 + Revelation 22.6-end

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