



Sunday 14th December 2025

The Third Sunday of Advent

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: Purge me with hyssop (12), 18, 19 (omit *verses),
Hark what a sound.

Music at Communion:

'How lovely are the messengers' Felix Mendelssohn

'Lo, in the wilderness a voice' Luther's Hymn

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

Hymns: BWV 659 C. J. S. 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

James Wyman

Sidney Alan Rogers, Doreen Joan Trew, Nicholas Llewellyn, Elizabeth Frances Rugg, John Charles Bennett, John Pender, Anna Love, Alice Louisa Rogers, Joseph Rogers, Fergus William Watson, Christine Brown, Robert Walters, Albert Munro, Julie Ann Myers, James Adam, Catherine Alice Baxter-Phillips

Reflection for the week

Derek Kirkaldie

The **Third Sunday of Advent**, called **Gaudete Sunday**, is a moment of quiet joy in the midst of the Advent season. Gaudete means “Rejoice” in Latin, and today the Church gently reminds us to take a pause, to lift our hearts, and to celebrate the nearness of Christ. While Advent is often a time of reflection and preparation, Gaudete Sunday invites us to feel hope and joy even in the waiting.

One way this joy is shown is through the colour rose. Most of Advent is marked by deep violet, a sign of reflection and penance, but today we use rose as a soft, warm colour. It reminds us that light is growing, that the waiting is nearing fulfilment, and that joy is already present among us. On the Advent wreath, the third candle is lit, a simple flame that symbolizes the hope and gladness we are called to embrace.

The readings and prayers of the day encourage us to rejoice in the Lord. They remind us that God is faithful, that salvation is near, and that joy can be found even in ordinary moments. In our daily lives, this might mean noticing the kindness of a friend, the beauty of a winter morning, or the

quiet peace of prayer. Gaudete Sunday is a gentle invitation to pause, to breathe, and to let the love of God fill our hearts.

This day encourages us to carry hope

with a smile and a light heart. It is a reminder that the waiting of Advent is not only about preparing our homes or calendars but also about opening our hearts to the joy that Christ brings. Even amid busyness, challenges, or uncertainty, there is reason to rejoice.

Gaudete Sunday calls us to soft, quiet joy—simple, peaceful, and enduring. It is a moment to remember that God is near, that love is coming, and that even in the waiting, our hearts can be filled with light. By welcoming this joy, we are gently prepared to receive Christ not only at Christmas but in every day of our lives.

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 last week's piece "How beautiful upon the mountains" by John Stainer, this Sunday the choir sings another similar style of anthem also written in the early 19th century, both based on the message of "peace" that the prophets were to bring. Today's anthem, "*How lovely are the messengers that bring us the gospel of peace*" is a chorus from Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio St. Paul and is based on biblical verses from the book of Romans. The oratorio was originally written in German and first performed in 1836 in Düsseldorf and the English version premiered in Liverpool later that year. Again, like the Stainer anthem, the tune passes through each part of the four-part choir (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) and leads to a gentle ending.

It is followed by a hymn specifically about John the Baptist – "*Lo, in the wilderness a voice 'make straight the way' is crying*", written by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936). Dearmer was an Anglican priest and liturgist best known as the author of *The Parson's Handbook*, a liturgical manual for Anglican clergy, and also as one of the original editors of *The English Hymnal*. Our modern version of this hymnbook has 17 of his hymns within it. A lifelong socialist, he was an early advocate of the public ministry of women (but not their ordination to the priesthood)

and concerned with social justice. He eventually became a Canon at Westminster Abbey where he ran a canteen for the unemployed. In this hymn he talks about John coming to "make us clean" by the destruction of evil encapsulated in preparation for the coming of God in his great might. It is sung to a Lutheran hymn tune dating from 1533.

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 boisterous as was played on Advent Sunday, others gentle as is this one, with the hymn melody being played as a solo against a quietly moving accompaniment.

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Order of Service

The Gathering

Notices are given before the service. Stand as the Choir enters. All sing:

Purge me with hyssop, make me clean,
wash me, O God, out and within.
I shall be white and pure as snow,
if you, dear Lord, will through me flow.

All glory to the Father be,
who sends His Son, our Victory;
whom with the Spirit we adore,
one God who reigns for evermore.

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every Christian breast:
And furnished for so great a guest!,
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward.
Without thy grace our souls must fade,
and wither like a flower decayed.

Stretch forth thine hand to heal our sore,
and make us rise, to fall no more.
Once more upon thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.

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: 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. All say Amen.

The Scriptures

Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be

opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

*Remain seated as the Choir sing
Psalm 146. 4-10*

Blessed is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help : and whose hope is in the Lord his God;

Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is : who keepeth his promise for ever;

Who helpeth them to right that suffer wrong : who feedeth the hungry.

The Lord looseth men out of prison : the Lord giveth sight to the blind.

The Lord helpeth them that are fallen : the Lord careth for the righteous.

The Lord careth for the strangers, he defendeth the fatherless and widow : as for the way of the ungodly, he turneth it upside down.

The Lord thy God, O Sion, shall be King for evermore : and throughout all generations.

James 5. 7–10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn Number 18

*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 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

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/Christe Eleison' ('Lord/Christ 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 19
*(omit *verses)*

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 We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. *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.

Hark what a sound, and too divine for hearing,
stirs on the earth and trembles in the air!
Is it the thunder of the Lord's appearing?
Is it the music of his people's prayer?

Surely, he cometh, and a thousand voices
shout to the saints, and to the deaf are dumb;
surely, he cometh, and the earth rejoices,
glad in his coming who hath sworn I come!

This hath he done, and shall we not adore him?
This shall he do, and can we still despair?
Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before him,
cast at his feet the burden of our care.

Through life and death, through sorrow and through sinning,
he shall suffice me, for he hath sufficed:
Christ is the end, for Christ was the beginning,
Christ the beginning, for the end is Christ.

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)*

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

O Antiphons

From 17th-23rd December, as Advent draws to a close, each day is assigned an 'O Antiphon'. These were traditionally sung before and after the Magnificat at Vespers/Evensong, and they remain a wonderful meditation on the Christ we await.

Handmade cards are for sale in St Clement's, for use in private prayer. This year the Church of England has commissioned a range of composers to set each O Antiphon to music, perhaps each day you might listen to the new recording as an aid to prayer, and to keep

Advent alive until Christmas Day?

You can easily access them by going to:

www.stclementsandwich.org.uk/oantiphons

Reimagining our Worshiping Space

Copies of the 'Reimagining our Worshiping Space Together' booklet, with their response forms, are available by the font. A huge thank you to those who have graciously and imaginatively returned forms so far.

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 Care Group

It was lovely to see over 20 people attend the "Come and See" event for the new pastoral group, which is an important part of the Warm Welcome project.

If you would like to know more or register your interest, please email Derek on d.kirkaldie@stclementsandwich.org.uk. There are also leaflets on display, or feel free to have a chat with Derek or the Rector.

Parish Diary

December

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>

Zoom Compline

Our next online Compline will take place on Tuesday 23rd December, and will be a special service marking the end of Advent as we look towards the joy of the Christmas season. We would love to have as many people as possible join us — the service lasts around 25 minutes and is an important part of our Warm Welcome Project.

If this will be your first time joining us, please speak to Derek, who can offer guidance on how to connect. Full details are also available on the church website under Services.

www.stclementsandwich.org.uk/zoom-compline

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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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Julian Sampson + sampson@supanet.com

SACRISTAN

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The week ahead

Monday 15th December - Feria

Tuesday 16th December - Feria

1pm Funeral of James Wyman

Wednesday 17th December - O Sapientia

10:00am Holy Communion (*Book of Common Prayer, in the Church Hall*)

All day Sir Roger Manwoods Carol Service

Thursday 18th December - O Adonai

Friday 19th December - O Radix Jesse

9:45am Morning Prayer

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

Saturday 20th December - O Clavis David

Sunday 21st December - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

10:30am Parish Eucharist (Common Worship)

Celebrant: The Rector Preacher: The Reverend Howard Pashley

6:30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Day	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday	Ps 40 + Isaiah 38. 1–8, 21–22	Ps 25, 26 + 1 Thessalonians 5.1–11
Tuesday	Ps 70, 74 + Isaiah 38. 9–20	Ps 50, 54 + 1 Thessalonians 5.12–end
Wednesday	Ps 75;96 + Isaiah 39	Ps 25, 82 + 2 Thessalonians 1
Thursday	Ps 76;97 + Zephaniah 1.1 – 2.3	Ps 44 + 2 Thessalonians 2
Friday	Ps 144, 146 + Zephaniah 3.1–13	Ps 10, 57 + 2 Thessalonians 3
Saturday	Ps 46, 95 + Zephaniah 3.14–end	Ps 4, 9 + Jude

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