SANDWICH
St Clement's Parish Church

Sunday 29th November 2026
The First Sunday of Advent

You are most welcome.
A message to new visitors is found on page 3.
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: Derek Kirkaldie (Reader)
Setting: 'A People's Mass - Anthony Gregory Murray with Glastonbury Kyrie Moger Gospel Acclamation "From the First Sunday of Advent..."
Hymns: 7, 6, 9
Music at Communion:
'Prayer for the Blessing of Light (from 'Veni Emmanuel')' arr Malcolm Archer
'O radiant dawn' James MacMillan
Postlude: Chorale Prelude on "Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland" BWV 661' *J S Bach*

For your prayers

At This Time Jennie Frampton, Clive Taylor, HM The King, the bereaved, and those suffering during warfare

Recently Departed Elsie Parker

Year's Mind Patricia Pay, 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 Reverend Robin Bendall

If it is possible to distract you from your neighbour's early Christmas decorations, here is another dose of the anaesthetic writings of your small but perfectly formed...

You will remember Bob. Well, his best friend, Corneille (some parents do call their children astonishing names, whether you like French tragedy or not), was in Lisbon, of all places, just last week.

Wandering around that great city, he was struck by the beauty of it, the sort of beauty of dilapidation you will find in Venice, for example, and the only thing that distracted him from the glorious sights around him was the busyness of the local council workers (he guessed) who were creating the normal chaos one associates with putting up Christmas decorations in a city setting already stultified with traffic and endless road works. Corny immediately became cross, muttering words of one syllable about people who put up decorations early, and drawing himself up to his full five foot four, squaring his shoulders to hide his sorry early old age frame, he looked about for an official with whom he could sensibly remonstrate. So diligent was his search that he only noticed the pile of cables too late and obligingly getting his foot caught up in it all, he dived base over apex into a period of dazed confusion. Corny knows his Bible and is very aware of Paul's horse accident on the way to Damascus, and it set him thinking, whilst crowds of kind Lisbonese sat him up, disconnected him from his recently acquired over familiar tangle of Christmas lights, plied him with water, and even a pastel de nata, accompanied by kind words about the sugar will do him good and how it is very good for you being one of your five a day, and other such burblings from anxious bystanders.

Corny became aware of the kindness around him, the sense of joy, the impending celebration of Advent and the distant light at the end of the darkness which is Christmas. His conclusion was, if early decorations are bringing love, joy and kindness, surely they cannot be all bad. And, if we can hear the name of Jesus being breathed by some or even just a few, surely that awakening, that tiny planted acorn of a faith at its beginning, is absolutely worth it. Just because his tradition is in favour of serving advent, it does not give him the right to degenerate those who relish the anticipation of joy in their largely secular society.

And, (best not to start off a sentence, let alone a paragraph, with 'and'... it sends Col. Syntax into a cold sweat...) the main purpose of Advent is for us to self-search - are we doing anything to please God? Are we doing anything rotten which needs to be expelled? Are we determined to hold onto the things that we are doing well for God and His people? What possible purpose has searching other's activities got to do with preparing ourselves for the coming of Our Lord (other than to maintain that important sense of moral - whatever that means - existence, of course,) and making the way clear for His coming?

All this thought occurred to our friend Corny within the moments it takes to consume the tooth aching sweetness of a pastel and to thank the kind folk of Lisbon.

I reckon we can all learn something from the garbled philosophy of your new friend. Yes, advent is and should be a central celebration of this time of year for our spiritual health, or our relationship with God. So, should we be a little less inclined to complain about Mrs. Wigglejeans' dress-sense, a little less forthcoming as we bludgeon those who decorate early, and be more inclined to make sure that we are getting it right (don't forget to allow yourselves a little righteous pat on the back when you are doing something splendid - this is important too... within parameters...) and less bothered about removing the speck from our neighbour's eye? As yet, I haven't even started on Corny's dreadful sense of humour, no, no, no, none of your present concern, Robin… but your opinions, now, on Mrs. Wigglejeans and her latest caftan…

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 on a marvellous golden trolley from in front of the High Altar, 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.

Plainchant continues in the first communion piece – "*Prayer for the blessing of light*" as a setting based on the great Advent hymn Veni Emmanuel (being the traditional hymn tune to O come, O come Emmanuel) The contemporary composer Malcolm Archer set these words from "The promise of Glory" (a Church of England Liturgical Commission resource containing services and prayers from All Saints to Candlemas). 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 sound for ever."

It is followed by a modern anthem "*O Radiant Dawn*" by the contemporary Scottish composer James MacMillan (b1959). The words are from one of the 'Great O' Antiphons used in the days leading up to Christmas. In his setting from the second set of 'Strathclyde motets', James MacMillan draws harmonic inspiration from Thomas Tallis's O nata lux, blending it with insistent, ascending repetitions of the words "come" which depict the people's desperate cries for Christ's presence. Hear how the repeated chords which build up from 'come, shine on those who dwell in darkness' sound like emerging light. The structure of the work enhances its emotional depth: the outer sections are scored for four voices, while the inner verse is reduced to two vocal lines, creating a stark textural contrast. This simplicity is further heightened using wide intervals—sixths and sevenths—evoking the struggle of a people walking in darkness. It concludes with a rocking "amen", again reinforcing the pleading nature of this work.

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). Bach wrote a number of different chorale 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.

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. **Amen**

The Scriptures

Isaiah 64. 1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,

so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

as when fire kindles brushwood

and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,

so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,

you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,

no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,

who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,

those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;

because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,

and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,

and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,

or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,

and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;

we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,

and do not remember iniquity for ever.

Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Remain seated as the Choir sing Psalm 80 v1-8, 17-19

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep : shew thyself also, thou that sittest upon the

cherubims.

Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasses : stir up thy strength, and come, and help us.

Turn us again, O God : shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

O Lord God of hosts : how long wilt thou be angry with thy people that prayeth?

Thou feedest them with the bread of tears : and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.

Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours : and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Turn us again, thou God of hosts : shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt : thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.

Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand : and upon the son of man, whom thou madest so strong for thine own self.

And so will not we go back from thee : O let us live, and we shall call upon thy Name.

Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts : shew the light of thy countenance, and we shall be whole.

1 Corinthians 1. 3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Hymn Number 7

Turn to face the Book of the Gospels as it moves to the centre of the nave. A Gospel proclamation is sung.

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

Mark 13. 24 - end

'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man

coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'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

Kneel or sit. The following response may be used: Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer** *At the end:* Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

***Stand** for the Peace* The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.** *The altar is prepared while we sing.*

Hymn 6

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.

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. If it is your custom, you are welcome to receive Communion, or bring this booklet with you to indicate that you wish to receive a blessing.

After all have received Holy Communion, ***Stand*** *as the Celebrant*

says Let us pray: 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.**

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

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 in front of the high altar.

Advent Coffee Morning



Saturday 5th December from 10am to 12noon
at St Clement's Church Hall in Sandwich

Christmas Cards
Bottle Tombola
Raffle

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



Advent Carol Service

Today 29th November 5:00pm

All are encouraged to attend this special service which prepares us for Advent, a season of preparation. In a world where Christmas seems to come earlier and earlier, do take this opportunity to rest in Advent music and readings - starting in darkness, until light gradually fills the Church as we celebrate the light that no darkness can quench.

Journeying through Advent

'Journeying Through Advent' (photo on the left) is the book which our weekly informal Bible study group will be reading from 25th November onwards.

All are welcome to join them (no need to attend every Wednesday) at 4:00pm in the Sunley Room in Church. If you are not able to join them, why not get a copy and read it privately this Advent?

A Service of Remembrance before Christmas

Tuesday 8th December 7:30pm

This December we will hold a special service with quiet carols and readings (for the second year running), in collaboration with Dilnot Smith and Son Funeral Directors, to remember those we have lost as we prepare for Christmas. All are most welcome.



Zoom Compline Join us for our service of quiet prayer and reflection on Zoom, hosted by St Clement's Church, Sandwich.

Next Compline: 1st December, 7:30pm (Duration 25 minutes)

To join, please visit: www.stclementsandwich.org.uk and go to Services -> Worship & Prayer -> Zoom Compline

St Clement's Bible Group

This informal group meets on Wednesday afternoons, and anyone wishing to come along at any time is very welcome. From 25th November we will be studying 'Journeying through Advent', and we will be meeting in the Sunley Room in church. We gather from 3.45pm, and the discussion session runs from 4-5pm. There is no need to attend every session, nor to sign up in advance. On 25 Nov we will discuss the week 1 readings from the book, on 2 Dec the week 2 readings, on 9 Dec the week 3, on 16 Dec the week 4 and on 6 Jan week 5 readings. Copies of the book are currently available to buy (whether or not you are able to attend any of the Wednesday sessions) after the Parish Eucharist service, or please contact Ros Daniels (secretary@stclementsandwich.org.uk) who will also be pleased to provide further details about the group.

Food Pantry and Bank

At St Clement's we support Sandwich Food Pantry with a continual collection in the porch, and the Deal Area Foodbank at particular collections during the year. Please see the notice in the porch for especially desirable items, and do bring offerings along on a Sunday or during the week.

Pastoral Care Team St Clement's has a team of visitors who are happy to visit those who are at home, for conversation and for prayer. The team is trained and has completed safeguarding checks. If you or someone you know would value a visit, please contact the Parish Office or our Anna Chaplain, Derek Kirkaldie, at d.kirkaldie@stclementsandwich.org.uk

DONATIONS PLEASE ~ for the Advent Coffee Morning on December 5th Donations for the Wine Tombola would be much appreciated. There will be a box near the large table for you to leave donations. Many thanks.

Parish Directory

PARISH OFFICE

Caroline Flynn
Parish Administrator

St Clement's Hall,
Church Street St Clement's,
Sandwich. CT13 9EH.
From Tuesday 3rd: Monday-Friday 9:00am-12:30pm
(Thursday remotely, Friday until 1:00pm)

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THE RECTOR

The Reverend Sebastian Hamilton
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The week ahead

Monday 30th November - **Feast of St Andrew the Apostle**

Tuesday 1st December - **Feria**

7:30pm Zoom Compline *(see p14)*

Wednesday 2nd December - **Feria**

10:00am Holy Communion *(Book of Common Prayer)*
4:00pm St Clement's Bible Group *(see p14)*

Thursday 3rd December - **Feria**

Friday 4th December - **Nicholas Ferrar, D, R**

9:45am Morning Prayer
From 10:00am Coffee Pot *(Parish Hall)*

Saturday 5th December - **Feria**

From 10:00am Advent Coffee Morning (See page 12) *(Parish Hall)*

Sunday 6th December - **The Second Sunday in Advent**

8:00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
Celebrant: The Rector
10:30am Parish Eucharist
Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Dr Jeanne Males

Day	*Morning Prayer*	*Evening Prayer*
Monday	Ps 47, 147.1–12 + Ezekiel 47.1–12	Ps 87, 96+John 1.35–42
Tuesday	Ps 80, 82+ Isaiah 43.1–13	Ps 74, 75+ Matthew 12.22–37
Wednesday	Ps 5, 7+ Isaiah 43.14–end	Ps 76, 77 + Matthew 12.38–end
Thursday	Ps 42, 43+ Isaiah 44.1–8	Ps 40, 46+ Matthew 13.1–23
Friday	Ps 25, 26 + Isaiah 44.9–23	Ps 16, 17 + Matthew 13.24–43
Saturday	Ps 9, (10)+Isaiah 44.24 – 45.13	Ps 27, 28 + Matthew 13.44–end