



# Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025

# Advent II

Website: [www.holyford.org](http://www.holyford.org)

Facebook: @holyfordmission

**Rector**

Fr Steven Martin

01297 553180

[rector@holyford.org](mailto:rector@holyford.org)

**Curate**

Fr Marc Kastner

01297 642061

[curate@holyford.org](mailto:curate@holyford.org)

**Mission Community Office**

Mrs Caz Jefferies

01297 552307

[office@holyford.org](mailto:office@holyford.org)

## Prayers and Readings for this Sunday

**Collect** O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Isaiah 11. 1–10** A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**Psalms 72. 1–7, 18, 19** 1 Give the King thy judgements, O God : and thy righteousness unto the King's son. 2 Then shall he judge thy people according unto right : and defend the poor. 3 The mountains also shall bring peace : and the little hills righteousness unto the people. 4 He shall keep the simple folk by their right : defend the children of the poor, and punish the wrong doer. 5 They shall fear thee, as long as the sun and moon endureth : from one generation to another. 6 He shall come down like the rain into a fleece of wool : even as the drops that water the earth. 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish : yea, and abundance of peace, so long as the moon endureth. 18 Blessed be the Lord God, even the God of Israel : which only doeth wondrous things; 19 And blessed be the Name of his Majesty for ever : and all the earth shall be filled with his Majesty. Amen, Amen.

**Romans 15. 4–13** For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, ‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name’; and again he says, ‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’; and again, ‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him’; and again Isaiah says, ‘The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.’ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Matthew 3. 1–12** In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”’ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

**Post–Communion Collect** Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

# Notices

**Thank you!** A huge thank you to all those who are continuing to work hard to make preparations for Christmas. We have already been very busy with fayres, arrays of trees, warm minced pies and mulled wine, and there is more to come! There are now leaflets available with the dates and times of all the services and events throughout December. Please do pick one up (or find details on our website) and make notes in your diary.

**St Michael's Church Musbury** There is still time to join the singers for the Musbury Carol Service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 4pm. Our next rehearsal is on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm in St Michael's Church, Musbury (Ex13 8BB). Please do come along and invite any friends. Contact Sue McCoulough if you are interested or have any questions: [suemcc@phonecoop.coop](mailto:suemcc@phonecoop.coop)

**Christmas Tree Festival** St Michael's Church in Musbury has a Christmas Tree Festival on display this week, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December, daily from 10.30am to 4.30pm. The trees are on the theme of *Christmas in Song* and promises to be an excellent array, so please do go along.

**Candlelit Silent Prayer for Peace** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 4pm to 5.15pm in the Lady Chapel (St Andrew's, Colyton). There will be tea beforehand at 4pm and a short talk before we go into silence. All are welcome. *Please note we will not be meeting on any other Wednesdays in December.*

**Carol Singing in Branscombe** will take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December, beginning in The Masons Arms and finishing at the Branoc Hall Bar. They will also be singing on Friday 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning at the top end of the village and finishing at The Fountain Head. All are welcome to come along and sing—please meet outside the Branoc Hall at 6.45pm.

**Christmas Leaflets** are now available containing details of our services across the M. Please take some and help distribute them amongst friends and neighbours.

**Our Christingle Services** take place next weekend. On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm at St Lawrence's, Southleigh and at St Andrew's, Colyton on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 4.30pm.

## *Your Prayers this week are asked:*

<b>Sunday</b>	For those living without the knowledge and hope of Jesus Christ
<b>Monday</b>	For those struggling with their mental health
<b>Tuesday</b>	For the family and friends of the late Sue Glasper
<b>Wednesday</b>	For all preparing for their first Christmas after loss
<b>Thursday</b>	For the family and friends of the late George Stevens
<b>Friday</b>	For the family and friends of the late David Dixon
<b>Saturday</b>	For all those organising Musbury Christmas Tree Festival

# Services and Events this week and next Sunday

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Advent II</i>	8.00am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
	9.30am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
	11.15am	Eucharist, St Winifred's, Branscombe
	11.15am	Eucharist, St Giles', Northleigh
	11.15am	Morning Prayer, St Lawrence's, Southleigh
	11.15am	Morning Prayer, St Michael's, Musbury
	3.30pm	Village Praise, St Michael's, Colyford
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Conception of the BVM</i>	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
	5.30pm	Caterpillars Christmas Play, St Andrew's, Colyton
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
	9.00am	ColyTots, St Andrew's, Colyton
	12.30pm	Sue Glasper Funeral, St Andrew's, Colyton
	4.00pm	Musbury Choir Rehearsal, St Michael's, Musbury
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
	10.00am	Eucharist, St Andrew's Church, Colyton
	10.30am	Coffee & Chat, Musbury Village Hall
	11.00am	Good Grief, Sunday School Building, Colyton
	4.00pm	Candlelit Silent Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
	1.00pm	Colyton Bell-Ringers, St Andrew's Church
	7.30pm	Seaton Music Concert, St Andrew's, Colyton
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	8.30am	Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Colyton
	10.00am	Friendly Friday, St Andrew's, Colyton
	10.30am	Christmas Tree Festival, St Michael's, Musbury
	12 noon	David Dixon Funeral, St Winifred's, Branscombe
	6.15pm	Junior Choir Practice, followed by Colyton
	6.45pm	Choir Practice, St Andrew's, Colyton
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>St Lucy</i>	10.30am	Christmas Tree Festival, St Michael's, Musbury
	3.00pm	Christingle, St Lawrence's, Southleigh
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Advent III</i>	8.00am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
	9.30am	Eucharist, St Andrew's, Colyton
	9.30am	Eucharist, St Michael's, Musbury
	10.30am	Christmas Tree Festival, St Michael's, Musbury
	11.15am	Eucharist, St Winifred's, Branscombe
	11.15am	Eucharist, St Lawrence's, Southleigh
	3.30pm	Evensong, St Michael's, Colyford
	4.30pm	Christingle, St Andrew's, Colyton
	6.00pm	Evensong, St Giles', Northleigh
	6.45pm	Carol Singing, The Masons Arms, Branscombe