



**Welcome to St Edburgha's Church**  
**Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> December – Third Sunday of Advent**

***During the distribution of Holy Communion, you are most welcome to take time to pray and light a candle in the Gilby Chapel.***

**Collect:**

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.

**First Reading:**  
**James 5. 7-10**

<sup>7</sup> 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 <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience,

beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Gospel Reading:**  
**Matthew 11. 2-11**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' <sup>7</sup> 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? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> 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.”<sup>11</sup> 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.

*Children's activities and toys are available to use at any time during the service at the top of the north aisle.*

### **For Your Prayers**

**Simon Marshall – Team Vicar – and Nick Parker PiC - Solihull**

Jackie B, Peter S, Christine, Liz,  
Andrew, Glenys, Bill and Jo

*\*\*Please contact the parish office if you would like to include someone on the prayer list\*\**

### **Monthly Charity**

**CPAS**

**The Church Pastoral Aid Society**

### **Supporting our Community**



**Your donations** of tins of meat, fish, fruit, rice pudding, and monetary donations are always gratefully received.

### **Children and Families Work:**

Nate Glover: 07341 543761

Email:

[nate.glover@cofebirmingham.com](mailto:nate.glover@cofebirmingham.com)

**Safeguarding:** If you have any concerns about a vulnerable child, young person or an adult, please contact Julie Bridges (children) 07814 023913 – Tammy Tearoe (adults) 07462 228797

### **17th December**

Christmas Wreath/table/door decoration making 2 sessions

Starting 17:30 & 20:00 – Cost £23.00 which includes everything needed to make wreaths.

Refreshments are also included in the cost. All you need to bring are sharp scissors or secateurs.

Booking is essential on:-

0121-291-0401

### **Electronic Order of Service:**



### **DONATIONS**

We are asking for donations of **Mince Pies** which will be served with punch after the 9 lessons and carols service next Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> at 06:30pm.



## Christmas Table Sale

Are you looking for ideas for Christmas presents??  
Have a look at our St. Edburgha goods:-

**Jams, Chutneys and hand-made Christmas Cards**, on the table at the front of the North aisle.

## Congregational Christmas Card



Cut your carbon footprint - sign the **Congregational Christmas Card!** At the beginning of December a large card will appear on the notice-board at the back of church. **Instead of sending individual cards** you are invited to use this to write your greetings to church friends and drop a donation into the sock below. All donations this year will go to **Crisis**, the national charity for homeless people. Sylvia Roberts 07771 - 65578

## Special Services

**21<sup>st</sup> December – 6:30pm**

Traditional Nine Lessons and Carols

**24<sup>th</sup> December 4:00pm** Crib Service.

- **11:00pm** Christmas Carol Singing
- **11:30pm** Holy Communion

**25<sup>th</sup> December 10:30am**

Christmas Morning Holy Communion

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### **Into the darkness**

Into the darkness of this world;  
Into the shadows of the night;  
Into this loveless place you came,  
Lightened our burdens, eased our pain  
And made these hearts your home.  
Into the darkness once again,  
Oh come, Lord Jesus, come

*Come with your love  
To make us whole.  
Come with your light  
To lead us on.  
Driving the darkness  
Far from our souls.  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Into the longing of our souls;  
Into these heavy hearts of stone;  
Shine on us now your piercing  
light,  
Order our lives and souls aright  
By grace and love unknown.  
Until in you our hearts unite,  
Oh come, Lord Jesus, come.

*Come with your love...etc*

O Holy Child, Emmanuel;  
Hope of the ages, God with us,  
Visit again this broken place,  
Till all the earth declares your  
praise,  
And your great mercies own.  
Now let your love be born in us,  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.  
*Come with your love...etc.*

Come in Your glory  
Take your place,  
Jesus, the Name above all  
names.  
We long to see you face to face,  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.

*Words and Music by Maggi Dawn*  
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### **Advent 3 – John the Baptist**

Jesus said, 'No one more important  
than John the Baptist has ever been  
born; yet the least in the kingdom  
of heaven is greater than he.'

**Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!**

*The third candle is lit and this  
response is used*

Jesus is the light of the world.  
**A light no darkness can ever put  
out.**

We sing:  
Advent candles tell their story as  
we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness  
changed for gladness  
on that Day.

John the Baptist, by his preaching  
and by water poured,  
brought to those who heard his  
teaching, news of hope restored:  
'Keep your vision strong and  
steady, and be ready for the Lord.'

*Mark Earey*  
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