

Third Sunday before Advent

Year A

6 November 2011

Collect

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading *Amos 5.18-24*

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Second Reading *1 Thessalonians 4.13-18*

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Gospel *Matthew 25.1-13*

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples: ¹'The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." ⁹But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." ¹²But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

Post Communion Prayer

God of peace,
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom
and restored the broken to wholeness of life:
look with compassion on the anguish of the world,
and by your healing power
make whole both people and nations;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Notices for the week 6th -12th November

Sunday: St.Bart's 6.30pm Evening Prayer

Tuesday: St.Bart's 12.00 noon Holy Communion

Thursday: Holy Cross 2pm Wedding

Friday: Holy Cross 6pm SAACK

Saturday: St.Bart's 4pm Messy Church

St.Mary's 7.30pm Organ Recital by Dr.David Flood

Organ Recital by Dr.David Flood, Organist and Master of the Choristers at Canterbury Cathedral, in St. Mary's Church, Reculver, **Saturday 12th November** at 7.30pm. Admission £5 in advance from John Sinclair or Ronald, or £7 on the door - in aid of St.Mary's Organ Enhancement Appeal.

Congratulations to all involved in the setting up and production of the **Murder Mystery evening** on 29th October, and thank you to all who supported the event – over £500 was raised. Well done!

Future events for your diary:

Sunday 20 November. 5.30-7pm, Canterbury Cathedral **Celebration service for the Year of Discipleship**: Bishop Trevor would like each parish to be represented (not just by the clergy!). All welcome.

Saturday 19th November – **Whitstable Choral Society** concert in St.Bart's – **Christmas Oratorio** by J.S.Bach Admission £12 on the door (or see Liz Hawkes or Janet McBride).

Saturday 26th November – **St Barts Advent Fair** 11 -1pm

Friday 2nd December – **Quiz Night** at St Barts 7.30 pm (please let Ken know if you are coming)

Sunday 11th December – **Carols** at Hoath (4pm) and St Mary's (6.30pm)

Sunday 18th December – **Carols** at St Barts (6.30pm)

Wednesday 21st – **Carols round the Tree** at St Mary's and **Grand Draw** for Christmas Hamper. 6.30pm

Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital: We are planning to provide a brief Sunday afternoon service, twice a month, in the day room of Heron Ward, beginning in January 2012. It would be good if we could go as a small team, rather than just one person, so if you would be interested in doing this occasionally, speak to Ronald, Liz, Jenny, June or Brian (who are the hospital Chaplains).

A message from Jenny: Many thanks for all the cards and prayers and good wishes I have received. They are all very special and much appreciated. Jenny

FOR PRAYER The Church throughout the world. Archbishop Rowan and all the churches of the Anglican Communion. The Diocese of Ughelli, Nigeria. Bishop Trevor and the Diocese of Canterbury. Canterbury Deanery. All retired clergy. The United Benefice and our communities.

Peace and justice in the World: For countries suffering from famine, floods, earthquakes or manmade disasters, civil unrest; terrorism, or warfare.

Thailand; Turkey; Nepal; India; Pakistan; Syria; Libya; Yemen; Egypt; Somalia; Kenya; Ethiopia; Afghanistan; Pakistan; Iraq; Zimbabwe; Greece; Israel; Gaza.

The Sick: Amanda Evans, Jane Leitch, Alan Barton, Mavis Williams, Mary Self, Davyd Dyer, Grace, Ann Hopper, Jane, Jenny Hadlow, Anne Duncan, Rita Fern, David.

A Prayer for the Year of Discipleship: Lord, you called your first disciples to follow you. Help us to deepen our walk with you and renew our discipleship. Kindle in all our hearts a longing to see you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly day by day. Amen