**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.

**Amen.**

**Philippians 4.4-7**

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Luke 3.7-18**

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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. 9Even 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.’

10 And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ 11In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ 12Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ 13He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ 14Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**Post Communion Prayer**

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.

**Amen.**

**NOTICES:**

At the end of the service please take this sheet home with you. If you could put your hymnbook on the shelf by the door please and the service book in the box.

For events, contact details and notices please see the December newsletter available at the back of church. At St Peter’s the parish magazine will resume from December.

To enable us to make pastoral visits in as safe a manner as possible please contact the Vicar if you would like a visit. This will also enable us to minimise unnecessary travel as our parishes cover a large area and many visits are to homes where people are out.

*Advent 3*

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true:
to you be praise and glory for ever!
Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth
as a burning and shining light.
May we your servants rejoice in his light,
and so be led to witness to him
who is the Lord of our coming Kingdom,
Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages.
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*The third candle is lit*

God our Father,
you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age
a son called John.
He grew up strong in spirit,
prepared the people for the coming of the Lord,
and baptized them in the Jordan to wash away their sins.
Help us, who have been baptized into Christ,
to be ready to welcome him into our hearts,
and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the Light who is coming into the world.

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
John told the people to prepare,
for you were very near.
As Christmas grows closer day by day,
help us to be ready to welcome you now.**



**Present Aid at St Mary’s**

If you would like to place a Christmas card on a window and place a donation towards Present Aid in the box at the back of church. Full details in the December newsletter.

**Confirmation Service**

We are pleased that Bishop Mark will be with us on 30th January for our Confirmation Service. If you would like to know about Confirmation please speak to the Vicar in good time beforehand.

**Mothers’ Union Christmas Project**

St Peter’s Mothers’Union is collecting new ladies and gents socks, gloves, scarves and basic underwear which will be given to the Salvation Army for distribution to the homeless in Winsford and neighbouring areas. There is a box at the back of the church and from 5th to11th December you can take to Cora Cowap’s home Brackenburn, Vicarage Lane where there will be a box at the end of the drive.

**St Mary’s Christmas Flowers**

Contributions towards flowers for Christmas would be welcome.

12th December Advent 3

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary’s

11.00am Holy Communion at St Peter’s

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary’s

19th December Advent 4

9.30am Morning Prayer at St Mary’s

11.00am Holy Communion at St Peter’s

11.30am Baptism of Bessie Tomlinson at St Mary’s

6.30pm Nine Lessons and Carols at St Peter’s

24th December Christmas Eve

4.00pm Crib Service at St Mary’s

11.15pm Midnight Communion at St Peter’s

11.30pm Midnight Communion at St Mary’s

25th December Christmas Day

9.30am Holy Communion at St Mary’s

11.00am Holy Communion at St Peter’s

Please note we will not be holding services on Boxing Day, Sunday 26th December.

28th December Tuesday

1.00pm Wedding of Sarah Kirwan and Stuart Smith at St Peter’s