

**THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN MELBOURNE,
SMISBY,
STANTON-BY-BRIDGE AND TICKNALL**

The Bulletin

A weekly publication for the Benefice

**12th December 2021
Advent 3**

Services across the Benefice

Melbourne

8.00am Morning Prayer (Karen Grewcock)
10.30am Parish Eucharist (Revd Tony Barnard)

Smisby

5.30pm Evening Prayer (Gary Margerrison)

Stanton

At Swarkestone

Ticknall

9.15am Holy Communion (Revd Michael Rogers)

Welcome!

**Welcome to all worshipping here today with a special welcome
to those who are visitors or newcomers.**

Contact Us

Rector: the Revd Steve Short (day off Monday) 01332 864741
(currently on sick leave)

Email: rector@melbourneparishchurch.co.uk

Assistant Curate: the Revd Alan Winfield – 07796 560814

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<https://www.facebook.com/Melbourne-Parish-Church-Derbyshire-198938417583824/>

Churchwardens at Melbourne

Dr Terry Gilbert – 07852 974147

Mrs Linda Latchford – 07838 685243

Churchwardens at Ticknall

Mrs Mary Hirst – 01332 862647

Mrs Margaret Whyte – 01332 865427

Churchwarden at Smisby

Mr Gary Margerrison – 01530 414453

Churchwardens at Stanton

Mr Andrew Baldwin – 07526 162305

Mr Bob Wheat – 01332 864540

Bible Readings

Collect

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3.14-end

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3.7-18

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? Bear 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. 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.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers 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.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John 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. His 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.'

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.

Daily Hope from the Church of England

It is very important to remember those who do not have access to the internet especially when it comes to sharing in public worship. Please do recommend Daily Hope to anyone you think would benefit from it.

0800 804 8044

A free phoneline of hymns,
reflections and prayers



A pattern for daily prayer, so that at home or at church we can pray together:

Monday: World leaders.

Tuesday: Those who have asked for our prayers: Anne Brazier, Roo Hubbard, Bob Smith, Hanna King, Campbell Laird, Christopher Browne, Christine Young, Colin Moore, Enoch Tweed, Nadine Worthington and Revd Steve Short.

Those in Derby's hospitals and hospices. All at Pool Cottage. All who are suffering from Covid-19.

Wednesday: Our benefice and our diocese. For our bishops, Bishop Libby and Bishop Malcolm, our Cathedral Dean, Peter and Area Dean, Mike.

Thursday: Our schools. The church worldwide.

Friday: All in need, especially the hungry, poor and homeless.

The Departed

In our prayers this week, we remember those who have died recently, especially Guillermo Martínez, and also those whose anniversaries occur near this time, among them Ray Stockley and Audrey Clifford.

If there is anyone you know who would like to go on our prayer list or who would appreciate a phone call, do please contact our Curate, Revd Alan Winfield, or the churchwardens. Thank you.

New Regulations

Last week the Benefice wardens took the decision to reintroduce the wearing of face coverings in our churches. On Wednesday evening the Prime Minister confirmed that England will move to Plan B following the rapid spread of the Omicron variant and from Friday 10th December, face coverings have become compulsory in most public indoor venues, such as cinemas, theatres and **places of worship**. I would also like to suggest that we consider where possible social distancing and making as much use as possible of the space in our churches. The situation is being monitored on a regular basis and updates will be announced as and when required. Thank you for your cooperation as we journey through these times together.

Alan Winfield

From Revd Mike Firbank, the Area Dean

(This was said by Mike at the end of last Sunday's service)

The Church across the world is supported and maintained, led, and served by countless hard-working volunteers who give so much of themselves for their Lord - often in blood, sweat and at times tears. We only ask our volunteer army to serve for as long as it seems right for them to do so and no longer - and we never ask people to keep serving if it might become detrimental to their health or wellbeing.

So, I always highly commend people who know when they decide for themselves that it is the right time for them to step back. Terry and Linda, our church wardens, have in the words of your clergy here, served this church as our church wardens above and beyond the call of duty. They have decided that this is the right time for them to step back and stand down from that role of church warden. I thank them for all their faithful service and commend them, on behalf of the entire church, to be released from any misplaced feelings of guilt (they would be utterly misplaced) and pray for their well-being and peace of heart and mind.

Next, Rev Alan and I will start working on any practicalities that need addressing - that's our role. I am also waiting for instructions from +Libby on what she would like to see happen next. Also, when I chair Melbourne Church's PCC, a week Thursday, I will work with the PCC on any plans going forward that we need to make.

It's true these are challenging times - a Rector off poorly, Covid and lockdowns, all churches across the country reporting that 1/3 to half of their congregations not yet returned to church, and so much more. When challenges arise, I find myself returning to the words of one of our national or international leaders

Pope Benedict said this in the 1970s when many people were telling the church that 'God' was dead.

"The future of any Church will issue from those men and women whose roots are deep and who live from the pure fullness of their faith. To put this more positively: The future of the Church, once again as always, will be reshaped by ordinary daily saints. That is the ordinary men and women of the church whose minds probe deeper than the slogans of the day, who see more than others see, because their lives embrace a wider reality.

And so, it seems certain to me that the Church is facing very hard times. The real crisis has scarcely begun. We will have to count on terrific upheavals. But I am equally certain about what will remain at the end: the Church of faith. It may well no longer be the dominant social power to the extent that she was until recently; but it will enjoy a fresh blossoming and be seen as everyone's home, where all can find life and hope beyond death."

May God bless us and turn His face to shine upon us. Amen

What child is this?

The Ministry Team have been doing some planning to mark the keeping of Advent. Advent Sunday is not the beginning of the Church's year, when we change to the C (third) set of readings, but the beginning of a four-week period which has, traditionally, been kept as a time of preparation for Christmas. Our intention this year, across the churches of the Benefice, is to use these four Sundays to think about what the 'child born in a manger' would become.

At one level the answer is obvious. Jesus was the Son of God and the Messiah, the Saviour of the world, who died for us, but what does this mean in terms of the life he lived and the life which we can live, as his disciples, travelling along the same way of love? Every child born into this world has enormous potential and the story of the birth of Jesus, with singing angels, wondering shepherds and adoring Kings or Magi, suggests that this child will be something special. In brief, we shall discover someone who became a prophet, priest and king. However, the question remains, what does that mean for us?

The set readings, whilst not deliberately tied to these themes, nevertheless help us on our way and so we will be adding an insert to the Bulletin encouraging us all to take a look at them during the week, and spend a little time reflecting on them. Why not give it a try and see what comes out?

Have a blessed Advent and get ready for Christmas!

Tony Barnard

The Dower House carols are back.

The Choir have kindly agreed to sing carols at The Dower House on Tuesday 21st December, 7.30 - 9pm.

There will only be 20 tickets for sale this year so it will be first come, first served - with no block bookings. Tickets will be £10 each and all the proceeds will be donated to Melbourne Community Care.

Could you please email me griseldakerr@btinternet.com or catch me in church if you would like a ticket.

Griselda

Keep your eyes peeled...

Does anyone know the whereabouts of the crib which is part of the Nativity scene? Please let Rachel Coupe know if you do.

Working together with God at Melbourne Parish Church

“Framing the Future” Advent Update

The recently formed Action Teams have begun meeting during the autumn and we are delighted to report their progress:

Nurture and Education

- We plan to restore the Children’s Corner. (We have received an offer of money to pay for a new carpet.)
- The Infant School will send three groups of 60 children for ‘Experience Christmas’ on December 13, 14, and 17. (Junior School 14, 15, 16 December).
- Messy Christmas will be held on Saturday 18th December from 4.30-6.30.
- Chrstingle will be held as usual on Christmas Eve.
- Tony Barnard has prepared notes for the Sundays in Advent to be published in the Bulletin.

Community & Care

- Developing a Community List in parallel with our electoral roll.
- Preparing Christmas communications to those who have recently been out of touch.

Communication & Outreach

Current:

- Website & Facebook development - broadband provision in Church to enable streaming (special thanks to Nigel Coupe)
- Stall at Melbourne Late Night Shopping 3rd December including Travelling Crib, free donated biscuits and service leaflet distribution

Future planning:

- Developing an MPC Logo
- Promoting service details more widely.
- Expanding use of social media

Welcome and Hospitality

- Name Badge Sunday - to aid fellowship after the service.
- Refreshments after services - eg Carol Service
- Christmas cards to encourage belonging across the congregations

If you think you might like to come alongside any of the teams to partner for any of the mini-projects described above, please let me know.

Marcus Nolan
07966 545281
thewordsmith@gmail.com

Children's Society

After collecting the Children's Society boxes over the last few weeks and carefully counting the contents, I am very pleased to say that we reached the excellent total of £580.03. I have now paid this money to the Children's Society and am beginning to return the boxes to boxholders. If anyone would like to become a boxholder and start collecting their small change please let me know, every penny counts.

Thank you very much,
Jo Glaze

Living Waters

The next meeting of the Living Waters home group will be on Tuesday December 14th at 2 Dunningcliff Lane from 10.30 to 12. Coffee will be served from 10am. Everybody is welcome but please let me know if you would like to come (405303).

Alison Gregory

Church Family News

News from Deborah Lynch and Marcus Nolan



“We would like our friends at Church to know that we are to be married next Spring. We are delighted that the wedding will take place at Melbourne Parish Church on the 1st of May”

The week ahead...

Monday	9.15am	Experience Christmas
Tuesday	9.15am	Experience Christmas
	7.00pm	Bellringing practice
Wednesday	7.30pm	Choir practice
Thursday	9.15am	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	PCC Meeting
Friday	9.15am	Experience Christmas
Saturday	4.30-6.30pm	Messy Christmas
Sunday 19th	6.30pm	Carol Service

Musical matters

Melbourne Carol Services

The Choir is now preparing for the Christmas Carol Service next Sunday (19th) December which is the second of three such services marking the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, all at 6.30p.m. The Epiphany Carol Service will be on Sunday 9th January. Please do note the dates and join us for them if you can.

Future Cathedral Visits

I am now booking visits for both 2022 and 2023 as most Cathedrals are once again accepting Visiting Choirs, and we look forward to the following re-arranged trips that were postponed during the lockdowns:

Saturday 9th April 2022: Ely (*rearranged from 4 April 2020*)
Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May 2022: Hereford (*rearranged from 31 May 2021*)
Saturday 14th May 2022: Gloucester (*rearranged from 19 June 2021*)
Weekend of 19-21 August 2022: Truro (*rearranged from July 2020*)

As usual, there will be full details of each nearer the time with a coach booked for most of them.

Weekly music suggestions

As promised, this week I provide a second selection of Advent Music including many more items we sing and hear at Melbourne during this season and I hope that, as ever, there is something for everyone. Please stay in touch: 07808 474236 or simon.e.collins@btinternet.com

Hymns

O come, O come Emmanuel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qclIZpnZPgo>
On Jordan's Bank <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plr21lLgFpg>
Creator of the stars of night <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yEEDodsLtg>
Like a candle flame https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmwdZyTGa_A
Hark! what a sound <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkeMTbilzXE>
Lo he comes with clouds descending <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrzmHLiAsuQ>

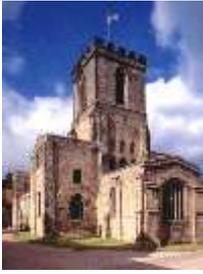
Choral Music

Richard Lloyd: Drop down ye heavens from above <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nrz5wnF28ps>
Anon 16th Century: Rejoice in the Lord alway <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=azVITZ-zNAs>
Orlando Gibbons: The Record of John <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhB89lDI7e4>
Otto Goldschmidt: A tender shoot <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MLDZdL-bMs>
William Byrd: Vigilate <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wejrKHre90s>
Charles Wood: O thou the central orb <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qf202pdjMZk>

Organ Music

Alec Rowley: Fantasy on Veni Emmanuel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opRUYh7rlqQ>
Flor Peeters: Wachet auf <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uyqTu8AGc4>
Bach: Nun komm der Heiden Heiland (BWV661) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lq6PHDHguDw>
Arr. Ben Bloor: Creator Alme Siderum <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liDuJGTyCI4>
Buxtehude: Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes Sohn <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s3Oa5Mnlw7g>
Kenneth Leighton: Fantasy on Veni Emmanuel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TePJ_Or9YUc

With very best wishes,
Simon Collins
Director of Music



Donations to Melbourne Parish Church

We appreciate that not everyone uses cash these days, so you can make donations via your Smartphone or a text message

SmartPhone Donations (via Give A Little)

Please use the QR code below or go to the web site:

tiny.one/mpc-donations



Text Message Donations*



To donate £1, text MELBPCC to 70201

To donate £3, text MELBPCC to 70331

To donate £5, text MELBPCC to 70970

To donate £10, text MELBPCC to 70191

Text donations will be acknowledged, and a link sent via SMS to your phone to register for gift aid (where appropriate)

*Fundraising, payments and donations will be processed and administered by the National Funding Scheme (Charity No: 1149800), operating as DONATE. Texts will be charged at your standard network rate. For Terms & Conditions, see www.easydonate.org



CHRISTMAS 2021
AT MELBOURNE PARISH CHURCH

Saturday 18th December
Messy Christmas - 4.30-6.30pm

Sunday 19th December
Carol Service - 6.30pm
followed by mulled wine and mince pies

Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve
Christingle and Nativity - 4pm

Midnight Mass - 11.30pm

Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day
Holy Communion - 8am
Parish Eucharist - 10.30am