



The parish of St Margaret, Holyrood, Prestwich

St. Margaret's, Prestwich & St. George's, Simister

Sunday 14th December – Third Sunday of Advent



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.**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Jume Thompson

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. **35.1–10**

A Reading from the Letter of James.

Alex Iles

Be patient, 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. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **5.7–10**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: 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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' 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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 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. 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." **11.2-11**

Welcome to St Margaret's & St George's. Postcards with service times and clergy contact details are available at the back of the church. Take one for yourself or for a friend.

All notices for next week's **Service Sheet** to be sent to David McConville no later than Tuesday. please send to: wardendm@stmargaretsprestwich.com

HYMNS

Introit	527	On Jordan's bank
Gradual	265	Hark the glad sound
Offertory	406	Long ago, prophets knew
Communion	128	Come thou long expected Jesus
Recessional	485	O for a thousand tongues

Porch Boxes: St Margaret's Church will be open between **9.30 am and 11 am** on **Thursdays** for donations. Many thanks.

Events Happening This Week

Tuesday 16th December 2.00 pm Rhyme Time

Wednesday 17th December **10.00 am Holy Communion at St. Margaret's followed by coffee**
11.15 am Advent course in the vicarage.
5.30 pm Maggie's Music Makers

Sunday 21st December **Third Sunday of Advent**

8.00 am Holy Communion at St. Margaret's

9.15 Silent Prayer

9.45 am Holy Communion at St. Margaret's

11.15 am Carol Service and Holy Communion at St. George's

Please pray for: -

The Sick: Jill Dodge, Brian and Barbara Faulder, Sue Goergen, Ruby Hewitt, Alan and Michaela Jones, Joan Knott, Iain Marshall, Carol Olive, David Porter, Gail Tyldesley, Florence Webb.

Ongoing Prayers for Healing & Wholeness: Celia Barnett, Becky, Mike Chadwick, Ros Cope, Audrey Dalton, Philip Dawson, Rev Christine, Charlie Heywood, Hilda Hyde, Brian Jones, Robert Lyne, Ella McConville, Peter North, Peter Owen, Rev Pauline, Mike Richards, Pierce Smeaton, Barbara Southworth, Rev Keith Trivasse, Brian Wareham, Alice White.

Recently Departed:

Anniversaries of Death: Frank Monkman, Elsie Morrison, George Smethurst, Alan Waugh.

Columbarium Flowers: George Smethurst 16th December.

NOTICES:

Our Annual **Digital Advent Calendar** began back in December 2020, and it's back now for its 6th year! If you have any bible readings, poems, short stories or prayers that you would like included, please make a video recording of yourself reading it, and WhatsApp it to Carol P. If the technology seems a bit daunting, help is available! The theme this year is **angels**. Thank you.

This year's **Advent Course** will continue on **Wednesday at 11.15** in the vicarage. We will be using the book **Listening to the Music of the Soul** by Guli Francis-Dehqani.

Please do not **park** so that you are blocking the **vicarage drive** at any time. Rev Helen may need to get her car out in an emergency.

Final total for **St George's Christmas Fair** is **£1,200**.



Scan to donate to the upkeep and mission of our churches