

Collect for Today

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

Readings for This Week (may vary)

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11
(Psalm 126 or *Canticle*: Magnificat)
1 Thessalonians 5.16-24
John 1.6-8,19-28

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

(First Sunday of Christmas)
Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3
(Psalm 148*)
Galatians 4.4-7
Luke 2.15-21

Verse for the Week:

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am
the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make
straight the way for the Lord'". **John 1 v23**

Prayer & Reading Diary Sourton

Monday

Read: Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3

Prayer: Our clergy, especially Adrian Brook and
his family, lay readers and Sourton lay worship leader,
Caroline North.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 148*

Prayer: Local families, farmers and children;
Boasley Cross Primary School and all the schools in
the Dartmoor MAT.

Wednesday

Read: Galatians 4.4-7

Prayer: The Sourton Commoners Association and
Sourton Parish Council.

Thursday

Read: Luke 2.15-21

Prayer: Our PCC members and all who care for St
Thomas' Church.

Friday

Read: Isaiah 63.7-9

Prayer: All who visit St Thomas' Church; our
outreach to visitors and to all people seeking faith and
direction.

Saturday

Read: Ephesians 3.5-12

Prayer: Those who are sick in body, mind or spirit.

Notices:



- For the first time for many years, **St Mary's Belstone** will have a service of Holy Communion on **Christmas Day** at 9:30 am. There will be no late evening service on Christmas Eve.

- There will be a **Celtic Reflective Service: 'Celtic Epiphany'** - taking place in Jacobstowe on Wednesday 10th January, starting at 7pm. If it goes well, it will hopefully be followed up with a regular version.

- LILLIAN RATTENBURY, Inwardleigh.**
Lillian's funeral is on Monday 18th December at 12 noon. As per Lillian's wishes, the family have requested that the funeral is for immediate Family only. However, the service is being Live Streamed. If you wish to watch, please click on the link below and this should take you straight to the Wesleymedia site - just enter the pin number when asked. The streaming will not start until 12 noon. It is suggested you try the link before 12 noon to ensure you get through to the Chapel just in case you find a problem. The Link is available to watch for 7 days after the 18th December.

<https://www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view>

Webcast Login PIN 381-2901

Dates for your Diary:



- **Monday 18th December**
Germansweek- Carols & Curry @ 7pm
- **Tuesday 19th December**
Meeth – Carol Service @ 7pm
- **Saturday 23rd December**
Bridestowe – Walking Nativity @ 2pm

Christmas Day Services:

9:00am

Sourton – Holy Communion

9:30am

Northlew – Joint Service with Methodists

Belstone – Holy Communion

Inwardleigh – Holy Communion

10:00am

Bridestowe – Service at Methodists

10:30am

Okehampton - Holy Communion

Germansweek – Holy Communion by ext'n

Lydford – Holy Communion

Sticklepath – Holy Communion

11:00am

Hatherleigh – Holy Communion Gp. Service

Contact Details:



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Church Services: Sunday 17th December

9:30am

Meeth – Morning Praise

Northlew – Holy Communion

Bratton Clovelly – Morning Prayer

11:00am

Okehampton – Holy Communion

Hatherleigh – Family Service

Lydford – Morning Prayer

3:30pm

Inwardleigh – Christingle

4:00pm

Sourton – Lessons & Carols

6:00pm

Hatherleigh – Nine Lessons & Carols

6.30pm

Okehampton - Carol Service

Bridestowe - Joint carol service at St Bridget's

Belstone – Carol Service

Exbourne – Carol Service

Northlew – Joint Carol Service with Methodists

Sunday 24th December: Christmas Eve

9:30am

Jacobstowe – Holy Communion

11:00am

Hatherleigh – Morning Service

4:00pm

Okehampton - Crib Service

Lydford – Christingle

Exbourne - Crib Service

Northlew - Crib Service

Belstone – Crib Service

6:00pm

Bratton Clovelly – Carols in the Square

7:00pm

Hatherleigh – Carols in the Square

10:00pm

Northlew – Holy Communion

11:00pm

Okehampton – Holy Communion

11:30am

Bridestowe – Midnight Mass

Exbourne – Midnight Mass



Grapevine

3rd Sunday of Advent

17th Dec 2023



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www.northmoorteam.org.uk



Trying to keep the season of Advent and avoiding being swept aside by the juggernaut of Christmas seems more challenging every year.

As a child I attended a church where the Rector insisted on no carols before Christmas Day with the Carol Service always taking place on the first Sunday after Christmas. There are few churches that manage that now. At home in those far off days it was not until Christmas Eve that we decorated the tree.

We have to be pragmatic and accept that the service that brings in the punters more than most is a carol service before Christmas and that inviting folk into a church not yet adorned with Christmas tree and decorations would do us no favours. It is good to be counter-cultural but not to that extent! But alongside our pragmatism as a church, let us not abandon Advent as individual Christians. Its themes of prophecy and preparation, of life and death, are worthy of reflection before we get to celebrate the Incarnation.

Michael Winter