CHALKE VALLEY BENEFICE

November 26th 2026

Church News

Sunday 29th November – 1st Sunday of Advent			
10.00am	Benefice Communion (CW)	Odstock	Alison Waterhouse

The Coming of the Son of Man



"But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

"Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come.It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."



The Advent Wreath in the Church of England features four candles, with the first candle lit on Advent Sunday. The candles symbolize the preparation for Christ's coming, with each candle representing a different theme:

Advent 1: The Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) - a reminder of those who prepared for Christ's birth.

Advent 2: The Prophets - reflecting on the foretelling of Christ's birth.

Advent 3: John the Baptist - highlighting the call to prepare for Christ's arrival.

Advent 4: The Virgin Mary - celebrating the birth of Jesus.

The white or gold candle represents Christ at Christmas, and the candles are lit one on each Sunday until Christmas Day.

Readings for Sunday 29th November - 1st Sunday in Advent

Old Testament : Isaiah 64 v 1 - 9 **New Testament :** 1 Corinthians 1 v 3 - 9

Gospel: Mark 13 v 24 - end **Psalm** 80 v 1 - 8 & 18 - 20

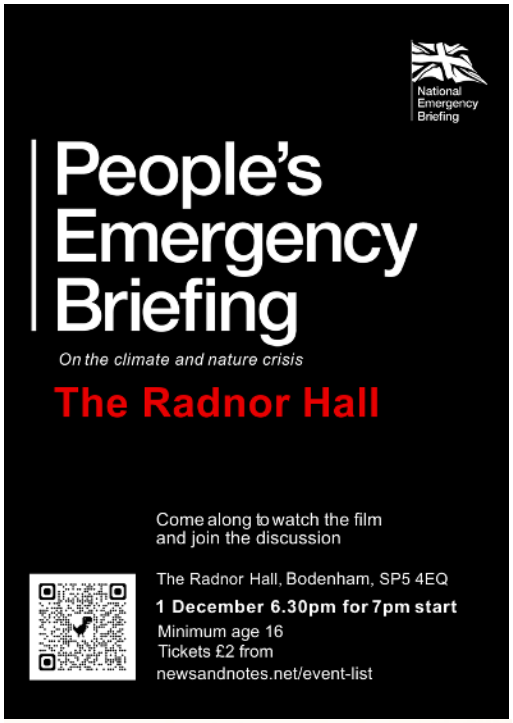


Advent Meditations

As part of our preparation for Christmas, on each Monday evening in Advent (30/11, 7/12, 14/12, 21/12), Rev Alison and Rev Kate are leading Advent Meditations, starting at 6pm in the Broad Chalke Rectory. These will be short meditations followed by a discussion and will finish by 7pm.

In C S Lewis'sThe Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,the magical land of Narnia is under a curse, meaning that it is 'always winter but never Christmas'. A different phenomenon is at work in our own culture in December. It is always Christmas but never Advent.

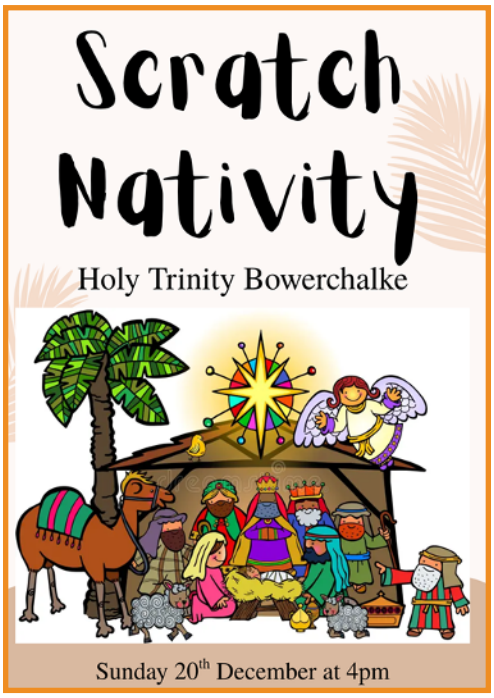
Throughout Scripture, God repeatedly invites his people to take stock of where they are and to get ready for what he is going to do, and this is true for us, particularly in Advent. Without making time and space to prepare for the gift of Jesus Christ at Christmas we miss the significance of this gift and the radical, transformational implications of it for our lives. Come and join us as you prepare your heart for Christmas.

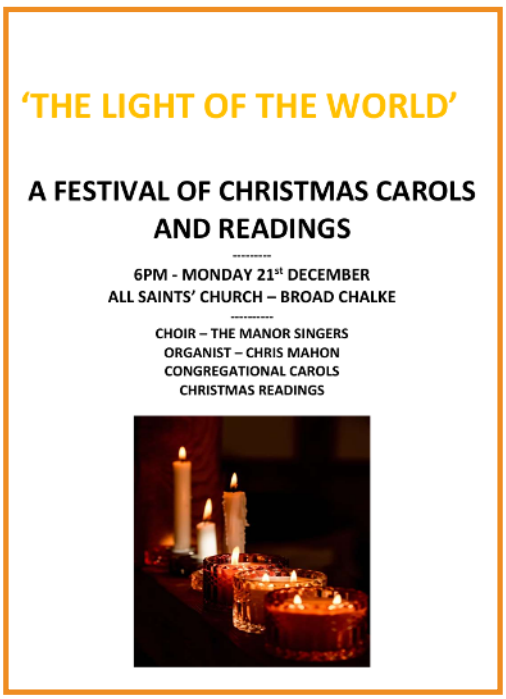












St. Martin's, Fifield Bavant

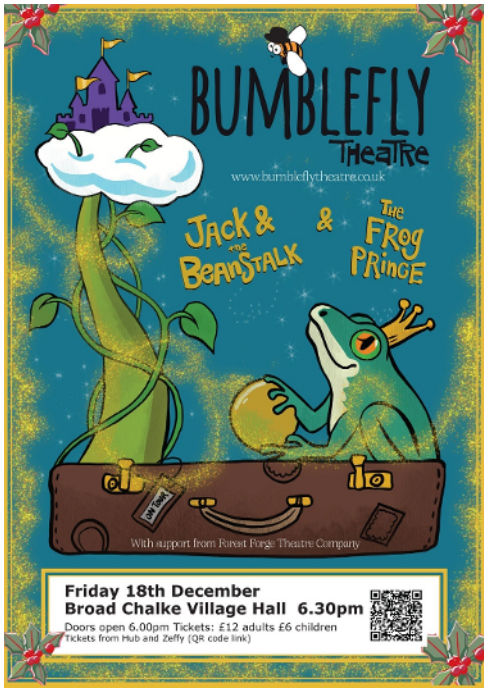
ADVENT SERVICE

Sunday, 13th December, 3pm
a service of poems, prayers and Advent hymns ~ all are very welcome

St. Mary's, Alvediston

CAROL SERVICE

Wednesday, 23rd. December, 6pm
led by the Rev'd. Alison Waterhouse.
Do come straight to the church, or join us at the Manor stable yard before 5.30, by kind permission of Rodney and Sue Heath.
Cars may be parked here and we will then walk to the church ~ weather permitting!
Contributions of flasks of mulled wine and / or mince pies etc. to share afterwards much appreciated.
All welcome.





Coombe Bissett CE VA Primary School



SCHOOL ADVENT COMMUNION
St Michael & All Angels Church
Coombe Bissett

Thursday 3rd December, 2.30pm

ALL WELCOME



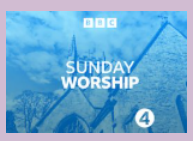
BIG GIVE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE - December 1st - 8th

This year, Morning Star is taking part in the BigGive.org Christmas Challenge. All donations made to Morning Star Salisbury during the week Dec 1 - Dec 8 will be doubled!

The goal is to raise a total of £4,000 for the Activities Fund. This means that every donation made, of whatever size, up to a total of £2,000 will be doubled, helping to ensure that we can continue to fund the Life Recovery Course as well as gardening, cooking, art and other projects for those in recovery from addictions and related issues, who are determined to build new relationships, routines and positive ways of living.

Donations must be made online at **https://donate.biggive.org/campaign/a05WS00000GsvPtYAJ** this takes you straight through to the Morning Star (Salisbury) page on the Big Give website

If you are unable to attend a service in church this Sunday, there are services on the radio ...



8.10am - BBC Radio 4
Sunday Worship
'The Art of Advent'

A service live from Glasgow Cathedral, the first of a series reflecting how art has expressed faith



3.00pm - BBC Radio 4
Choral Evensong

A service for Advent with Carols from the Chapel of St John's College, Cambridge

Prayer for the Day

Thursday, 26 November 2026
Christ the King

God the Father,
help us to hear the call of Christ the King
and to follow in his service,
whose kingdom has no end;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, one glory.
Amen.

