



Readings for today: Isaiah 11 vs 1-10; Matthew 3 vs 1-12

Dear Friends, the traditional Advent season invites us into four weeks of deep reflection on the advent, or arrival, of God in Jesus of Nazareth, as well as on his promised return. From focused prayer and Scripture reading to candle wreaths and embellished calendars, Advent celebrations vary widely. However, all Advent practices share a heightened anticipation for God's arrival. More than a countdown to Christmas, Advent embraces the way of Jesus and encourages hopeful waiting, courageous peace-making, resilient joy, and self-giving love in our still-suffering world.

For many, "advent" means a countdown to Christmas. Whether we envision candy-filled Advent calendars or lights draped over houses with nativity scenes out front, Advent marks a happy season of celebrating.

But the word "advent" comes from the Latin *adventus*, which is about a "coming" or an "arrival." The Latin translation of the New Testament uses *adventus* to describe God the Son arriving on Earth, born as Jesus of Nazareth during the 1st century C.E. (see [Acts 7:52](#)). Still, throughout Church history, Advent has more traditionally referred to Jesus' future arrival, when he comes to complete his work of restoring all creation (see [Matthew 24:27](#); [1 Corinthians. 15:23](#); [1 Thessalonians. 3:13](#)).

The Advent season leads to the celebration of Jesus' birth and also emphasizes his future arrival. It is a season that includes practices like prayer, giving to those in need, and worship (plus more, depending on the tradition). It reminds us that we are living during the time between Jesus' first and second advents, leading us to lament the hardships we experience in a still-broken world, while also forming us into people who wait with longing for the renewed world to come.

Celebrating Advent also means living it by practicing a generous way of love and care for our neighbours as we partner with Jesus to bring peace on Earth.

May your Advent season be filled with hope, peace, love and joy as we await the second coming of our Lord and Saviour. **The Bible Project Guide**

COMING UP THIS WEEK:

Thursday 4th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group meet in the parish centre

Saturday 6th 10am Blue Christmas in church

Saturday 6th 7pm Cantamici Christmas Concert in church and parish centre

Sunday 7th 10am Holy Communion in church and on Zoom; ID 820 0369 6332
(password from Qyan)

Monday 8th 9am City of Leicester College Visit to church

Tuesday 9th 9am City of Leicester College Visit to church

Tuesday 9th 9am Private Booking in the parish centre

Tuesday 9th 7.30pm Lily House Bereavement Group church & parish centre

Wednesday 10th 9am City of Leicester School Visit School visit to church

Wednesday 10th 2.30pm Evington History & Heritage Group in parish centre

Thursday 11th 10.30am Gentle Exercise Group in the parish centre

Thursday 11th 12pm Private Booking in the parish centre.

Thursday 4th & 11th 10am—12 noon Open Church

Thursday 4th & 11th 10am Holy Communion (BCP, said)



Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion will be held on **Thursday 4th December** at 10am. The Revd Jonathan Surridge will preside and preach. Refreshments will be served after the service, at the back of the church.

The Renowned Cantamici Choir will be in concert at St. Denys on **Saturday 6th December** at 7pm. They will perform a Christmas programme of music. Tickets only £10, pay at the door! A raffle will be held too, for the chance to win decent prizes. All are very welcome and refreshments will be served in the parish centre after the concert. This is a fundraiser for St. Denys so do come along and bring your family and friends, and spread the word!

Canon Matthew Bradbury will preside and preach at Holy Communion on **Sunday 7th December**, and **Thursday 11th December** both at 10am. Refreshments will be served following both services. All are welcome.

Hamper Donations Please note that the deadline for items to be donated towards the Lord Mayor's and People's Hamper for the Christmas Tree Festival is this coming **Sunday 7th December**. With thanks. **Judith Chapman**.

Arbor House December 2025 Our Christmas visit to Arbor House is next **Monday, 8th December at 2.15pm**. Please join us if you would like to.

Compline via Zoom will take place on Tuesday 9th December, 8pm, led by Revd Canon Dr Anthony Lees-Smith. Zoom ID: 820 0369 6332. Contact Qyan for the Pin number required (same as Sunday worship) All welcome.

A Dementia Friendly Carol Service will take place at Leicester Cathedral on Monday 15th December, 2pm-3.30pm. This will be an informal service for anyone, including those living with dementia, their carers and families. Refreshments will be served at the end of the service. All welcome.

The Late Suzanne Watson All who knew Suzanne are welcome to attend her funeral service taking place on Wednesday 17th December, 10.30am at Great Glen Crematorium. It will be led by Revd Nigel Rostock, a Curate at St. Denys in the past. The family ask that attendees wear a splash of colour, black is not required! Afterwards, all are invited to the wake being held at:

Café Ventoux, Tugby Orchards, Wood Lane, Tugby LE7 9WE



Carol Singing will take place on Wednesday 17th December in the Cow and Plough pub at 7pm, led by Chris Hossack. We are hoping as many people as possible from St. Denys will join him on this festive occasion.

Unwanted Small Jam Jars Needed! If you have any clean, small jam jars that you don't want, Kimberley can make good use of them for a new, church project she has in mind. Please bring them to church on a Sunday morning to give to her. With many thanks.



Invitation to Sing If you would like to take part in the Christmas Choir being formed for the Candlelit 9 Lessons and Carols service on 21st December, please see Qyan. More singers of all voice parts would be lovely. Thank you.

Please continue to pray and give thanks for the Christmas school visits to St. Denys, and our Ministry Team and volunteers running the sessions. Our links with local schools are strong, critically important and a source of much joy and inspiration for all involved.

Advent Thought: Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free, from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.



Christmas Services

Night Prayer (Compline) - Tuesdays 9th and 16th December on Zoom 8pm
Zoom ID: 820 0369 6332, Pin from Qyan (same as weekly Sunday worship)

Blue Christmas - Saturday 6th December 10am-12pm

Christmas Tree Festival - Saturday 13th December 11am-5pm and Sunday 14th December 12pm-4pm

Carol Singing - Wednesday 17th December at Cow and Plough, 7pm

Blue Christmas - Saturday 20th December 10am-12pm

Candlelit 9 Lessons and Carol Service - Sunday 21st December 6pm

Crib & Christingle Service - Wednesday 24th December at 4pm

Midnight Holy Communion Service - Wednesday 24th December at 11.15pm

Christmas Day Family Service/Holy Communion - Thurs 25th Dec at 10am

Collect for the First Sunday in Advent Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen.

Pray for those known to us personally, who are suffering from long term health conditions.

Also pray for the sick: Joan Ackland, Karen Dawes, Ann Dixon, Morag and Ron Maund, Isobel Thorpe, Richard Williams. **Pray for those who mourn including the family and friends of** Suzanne Watson



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St. Denys website, including the Giving Links for Church and

Youth Work: www.stdenys.org.uk

