

**Advent sermons on the theme  
“Waiting...for the coming of God in Jesus Christ”**

With the busy-ness of our daily lives, especially as we approach Christmas, it's easy to lose the importance of the advent season of expectation. This advent we will be reminded, through the weekly address at the 10am Parish Eucharist, that this is a season of celebration in itself.

We anticipate this as moving from darkness to light, as the coming of God's Word, as the coming of the forerunner of Jesus, John the Baptist, and finally, on the last Sunday of Advent, we remember Mary, who herself anticipated what had been promised to her by the angel – for, she would be the instrument for the coming of the Lord.

Further details are in a flyer at the back of church

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**Parish Office**

Would anyone have a PC monitor they could donate? Preferably with an HDMI connection, or suitable cable to connect to a USB port on a laptop. Linda Foley, our new Parish Administrator can be contacted by email at [parishadmin@berwickparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:parishadmin@berwickparishchurch.co.uk) or by phone on 07810 611521.

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**The Julian Prayer Group**

Our Mother Julian Group meets at 11.15am -12.15pm. All are welcome to share in this this time of stillness and silence together, with Mother Julian as our guide. We meet in the choir room at Holy Trinity on the last Tuesday of the month.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

**Contact:** Rev. Gabrielle Ayerst 01289 302680

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Rev'd Tom Sample                      01289 298521

**Churchwardens:**

Paul Marshall                      01289 306564  
David Mason                      07860 360074.  
Ann Mawer                      01289 763096  
Joyce Currie                      07407 549543

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If there are any events or information you would like to see in future Monthly Messengers please contact: Phil [info@berwickparishchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@berwickparishchurch.co.uk)

# Berwick Parish Church Monthly Messenger



**Finding the new vicar of Berwick**

December marks a key stage in the journey to recruit a new vicar, with the production of a Parish Brochure.

This document is designed to provide information to those interested in applying for the role, informing them about the priorities of the parish, the key qualities sought in the new incumbent, and about the church and Berwick that will be useful in deciding whether to apply. The document needs to reflect the priorities agreed by the PCC, based on the questionnaire, views from parishioners and the discussions at the PCC away day in October, in a way that will attract the right applicants. It should not paint too rosy – or too gloomy – a picture of the church and of Berwick. Please pray for the PCC as it finalises this key document and prepares us to move to the next stage in the recruitment process.

Churchwardens

[www.berwickparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.berwickparishchurch.co.uk)

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**Sunday Services**

8.30am:            Holy Communion  
10.00am:        Parish Eucharist  
6.00 pm:        Choral Evensong or sung evening prayer  
(with Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month)

**Every Thursday:**

10:00 am        Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

## The Fabric Group

The Fabric Group are a working party which meets on the third Saturday of the month – volunteers needed – this is an opportunity to keep up to date with the many small jobs around the church – there will be a selection of jobs for all levels of skills and expertise. The Fabric Group working day will be from 9.00 to 12.00 and will cover clearing gutters, and drains plus several other jobs around the church.

Could you spare us some time before Christmas to help move and position the Nativity Scene near to the church gates? Please contact Paul Marshall.

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### Berwick Parish Church Solar Panel Project

Approved by the Parish Church Council on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

30 solar panels to be installed on the southside roof:

- ballasted and clamped to modern, ridged surface
- hidden from public view by the castellated wall
- a 1m service area under the wall for gutter clearing and a 1m service area under the church windows for cleaning
- one cable to be brought down inside the Bell Tower into the locked side room beneath.

2 batteries and inverter to be housed against the south wall in the side room:

- a cupboard to be built in a style appropriate for the church under the window on the south wall
- cabling to be run in the existing modern casing at floor level, around the west wall and under the Gallery stairs into the meter cupboard
- the side room books to be placed in a more accessible area or returned to the side room after the works are completed, according to the wishes of the Library Committee.

Planning permission is now proceeding with referrals to the following:

- Northumberland County Council
- Diocesan Advisory Committee
- Statutory Consultees including Historic England, Church Buildings Council and the National Amenity Societies.

An Ecological Impact Survey has concluded there is negligible risk to bats or nesting birds.

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The Church is open daily and you are welcome to sit for a while for a time of prayer or reflection

## Tea, Cake and Chat

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December Parish Centre 2.30 - 4pm

Do come along to a Christmas themed Tea, Cake and Cake, bring a friend and make new ones. Seasonal goodies to enjoy, lighthearted Christmas entertainment and a chance to sing a Christmas Carol or two.

There will not be a Tea, Cake and Chat in January so the next date for your diary is February 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Contact:** Ann Mawer 01289 763096

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## Social Group

We hope you have enjoyed the events you have come to in 2023 and will continue to support us in 2024. Thanks to your generous donations at the various events we have been able to give significant amounts to various worldwide disaster appeals and a magnificent £347 to the Food bank over the Harvest. The first event in the New Year will probably be a Pancake Party on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> and we are always open to new ideas and your help.

The members of the Social Group would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

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## The Flower Guild

In order to maintain our regular flower arrangements in Church we really do need donations, large or small, from members of the congregation. They will be much appreciated. Thank you. C.Smith ( Flower Guild Coordinator)

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## Sparklers

Children are welcomed at Holy Trinity in our monthly Sparklers' Group, children aged 3-10 learn about the Christian faith through stories, songs, games and lots of fun. The children come together in church at the beginning of the 10.00am Parish Eucharist service, then leave for activities in the Parish Centre. Parents are welcome to join the children for activities.

**When:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, 10<sup>th</sup> December.

**Contact:** Diana MacNaughton