`Canon David Shaw

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**Facebook: St Clement Church Jersey Channel Islands – watch 10.30am service live and recorded**

Web site: [www.stclementschurch.org.je](http://www.stclementschurch.org.je)

Treasurers and church bank account details:

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***Please put a note in the ‘reference’ box for online banking so treasurers know what the payment is for and/or from whom, if that is important. Thank you.***

**November 25th 2021**

**Dear friends of St Clement and St Nicholas,**

This week I took part in two very contrasting gatherings. The first was attending the Royal Court for jury service. Potentially two weeks out of the diary as we approach Christmas was not ideal. It was rather like an old fashioned church service with covid restrictions . Everyone was dressed smartly as per the instructions. All wearing masks so difficult to recognise people even if we knew them. Names were taken quietly and we were shown where to sit in rows facing the square in the room called the Old Library next door to the courtroom. This 'congregation' of strangers seemed to have elected for complete silence and apart from the occasional word from the front about mobile phones, we sat in total silence from 9.15 until nearly 10pm.  Giving ample scope for rejections there were far more people than needed and thankfully I was among the group released by 10.30. An interesting experience of an hour of silence amongst so many people and grateful for not being one of the chosen ones. It reminded me of a service in a village church in Oxfordshire. I was clearly not someone they knew, people nodded but said nothing and I left without any connection and never returned. Do take the risk, particularly at Christmas, of welcoming  anyone around you in church. You can be very lonely in a big group of strangers.

What a contrast to Tuesday as parishioners ,friends and relatives celebrated the life of Sexton George. Tracy conducted a lovely service and there was a real sense of community and a fondness for George. A big thank you to the team who laid on refreshments after the service, including a large bowl of chocolate buttons to share - he had a very sweet tooth !

We hope you are keeping well.

David

***PS I still have 300 stars for the Christmas prayer tree awaiting volunteers to punch holes in them and tie a loop of string. Hint !***

***Parish News will be distributed in the next few weeks. If you are able to deliver the parish news, please can you contact Jayne on 745260 next week.***

The Christians Together in Jersey annual meeting, which is taking place online on Monday 29th November at 7pm.  The link is : [https://zoom.us/j/9190731814](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fzoom.us%2Fj%2F9190731814&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ce369769084e94f509abc08d9af6fd509%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637733717111393861%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=sKLZblndb7rItUALTk50tTBParPOcjEt1TxYGedbGgw%3D&reserved=0)  As part of the gathering, Dr David Prothero (a regular worship leader at St John’s United Reformed Church) will speak about the growing need for Churches and Christians to consider mental health issues.

**St Clement’s Parish Church**

**St Clements’ Day Family Service**

**CA 108 Colours of Day**

**Colours of day dawn into the mind**

**The sun has come up, the night is behind**

**Go down in the city, into the street**

**And let’s give the message**

**To the people we meet**

***So light up the fire and let the flame burn***

***Open the door, let Jesus return***

***Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow***

***Tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.***

**Go through the park, on into the town**

**The sun still shines on, it never goes down**

**The light of the world is risen again**

**The people of darkness**

**Are needing our friend.**

***So light up the fire and let the flame burn***

***Open the door, let Jesus return***

***Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow***

***Tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.***

**Open your eyes, look into the sky**

**The darkness has come, the sun came to die**

**The evening draws on, the sun disappears**

**But Jesus is living**

**And his Spirit is near.**

***So light up the fire and let the flame burn***

***Open the door, let Jesus return***

***Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow***

***Tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.***

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath. One candle for each week of Advent and the middle one for Christmas Day.***

***Candle 1:*** *Lord Jesus, born in David’s City Bethlehem, bring us light.* ***Amen***

The Lord our God, the Almighty reigns.

**Let us rejoice and shout for joy, giving God the glory.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

God in Christ has revealed his glory. **Come let us worship.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting. **The Lord’s name is greatly to be praised.**

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord**. O praise the name of the Lord!**

God shows his love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Let us then show our love for him by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives; Father, forgive us. **Save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you; Father, forgive us . **Save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do, and think and say**;** Father, forgive us. **Save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world about us; Father, forgive us. **Save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son; Father, forgive us. **Save us and help us.**

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world through Jesus Christ our Lord*.* **Amen**

Let us declare our Faith in God

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

**A&M 42 Longing for light**

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness**

**Longing for truth, we turn to you**

**Make us your own, your holy people**

**Light for the world to see**

***Christ, be our light !***

***Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness***

***Christ, be our light***

***Shine on your church gathered today.***

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled**

**Longing for hope, many despair**

**Your word alone has power to save us**

**Make us your living voice. (Refrain)**

**Longing for food, many are hungry**

**Longing for water, many still thirst**

**Make us your bread, broken for others**

**Shared until all are fed (Refrain)**

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless**

**Longing for warmth, many are cold**

**Make us your building, sheltering others**

**Walls made of living stone. (Refrain)**

**Many the gifts, many the people**

**Many the hearts that yearn to belong**

**Let us be servants to one another**

**Making your kingdom come.**

***Christ, be our light !***

***Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness***

***Christ, be our light***

***Shine on your church gathered today.***

**The First Reading is taken from Daniel, Chapter two, beginning to read at the thirty first verse (Daniel 2 31-45)**

**31**“Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. **32**The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, **33**its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. **34**While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. **35**Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

**36**“This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. **37**Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; **38**in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

**39**“After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. **40**Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. **41**Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. **42**As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. **43**And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

**44**“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. **45**This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

“The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.”

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**The Gospel Reading. Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke**

**(Luke 21 5-11)** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**5**Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, **6**“As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.”

**7**“Teacher,” they asked, “when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?”

**8**He replied: “Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them. **9**When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.”

**10**Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. **11**There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  **Praise to you O Christ**

**Sermon David** It was Sexton George's funeral this Tuesday which was very appropriately St Clement's Day. He attended St Clement's School, living in the parish for much of his life and all his working life working in fields or the churchyard and parish lanes.   In a world which is so radically connected, particularly for younger generations, the idea of loyalty to a few square miles can seem an anachronism. People can work and attend meetings across the world via 'Teams' 'Zoom' or whatever the latest programme is called. There is to my mind a much greater sense of connection, even if you are watching a Facebook live service from home, if you have actually met some of the people in the same room and not just across screens. The parishes were formed around the churches. The Ecclesiastical Court was an important part of judicial life. The Seigneurial Court also as we demonstrated all those years ago in the marquee at Samares Manor in the 1204 celebrations. Constables and honorary police, parish schools and refuse lorries all followed on. Like all traditions the parish system doesn't make total sense. The boundaries sometimes streams long paved over and running through later housing estates. We will have five elected politicians for St Clement next year which reflects the growth in population but at least we know who the St Clement four deputies are,  unlike some parishes which have been lumped together in groups. St Clement's Church represents the very beginning of the parish. In cloth weaving you have the warp threads which go the full length through which the weft go, as the reminder goes  'from weft to right' . These weft threads could be seen as the changes and events of history back and forth but still the warp threads go on. The threads in cloth miss out much of the warp if they don't form part of the pattern. Our challenge is to keep the church and faith being included in the pattern of parish life. Supporting the £15,000 target for Gift Day  is one commitment, another might be helping to host one or more of the dozen services this Christmas, helping to keep the faith as part of Christmas celebrations and of course church members being involved in as much church and parish life as they can. People built a church, probably out of sticks and straw originally and it became dedicated to St Clement a bishop and pope around 100AD. One thousand or so years later after the first church it is our job to support and carry on the faith which inspired its foundation.

**CA282 Hills of the North rejoice**

**Hills of the north rejoice**

**Echoing songs arise**

**Hail with united voice**

**Him who made earth and skies**

**He comes in righteousness and love**

**He brings salvation from above.**

**Isles of the southern seas**

**Sing to the list’ning earth**

**Carry on ev’ry breeze**

**Hope of a world’s new birth**

**In Christ shall all be made anew**

**His word is sure, his promise true.**

**Lands of the east, arise**

**He is your brightest morn**

**Greet him with joyous eyes**

**Praise shall his path adorn.**

**The God whom you have longed to know**

**In Christ draws near, and calls you now.**

**Shores of the utmost west**

**Lands of the setting sun**

**Welcome the heav’nly guest**

**In whom the dawn has come**

**He brings a never – ending light**

**Who triumphed o’er our darkest night.**

**Shout, as you journey on**

**Songs be in ev’ry mouth**

**Lo, from the north they come**

**From east and west and south**

**In Jesus all shall find their rest**

**In him the longing earth be blest.**

**The Collect for** **the First Sunday of Advent:** Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life,

in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Intercessions**

The World Council of Churches are praying for Brunei, Malaysia, and Singapore

In the CTJ cycle of prayers we pray for St Andrew’s Church and its minister Mark Barrett

At the beginning of Advent let us pray that all Christians will be serious in their preparations for the coming of Christ

Pray for our world and its many troubles: for an end to the coronavirus pandemic, for a resolution to the refugee crisis and for ways to be found to live more harmoniously with our environment

Let us pray for your neighbours, that we may demonstrate the love of Christ to them in our words and deeds

Pray for all who are ill. Pray that common sense and love may prevail in the debate here in Jersey on assisted dying

Remember those who have died.  May the light of Christ shine into the darkness of all who grieve.

O come, O Come, Emmanuel. Fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Prayers ending: Lord in your mercy **All: Hear our Prayer**

Jesus taught us to call God our Father, so in faith and trust we pray:

**The Lord’s Prayer: All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy**

**kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread** **and forgive us our trespasses** **as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen**

**A&M 47 People look East**

**People, look east to see at last**

**Hopes fulfilled from ages past**

**Now in the promise of the morning**

**See, a brighter day is dawning**

**Rich with the visions long foretold**

**Prophets’ dreams from days of old.**

**God reaffirms the gracious call**

**Words of welcome meant for all**

**Comfort enough for all our sorrows**

**Justice shaping new tomorrows**

**Mercy bears fruit in lives restored**

**Freed to praise and serve the Lord.**

**Now, with the coming of the light**

**Darkest fears are put to flight**

**See how the clouds of gloom are clearing**

**Blown aside by hopes appearing**

**Jesus, the Light of all our days**

**Comes and sets our hearts ablaze.**

**Born of our race, a child so small**

**Hail the promised Lord of all!**

**Nailed to the cross for our salvation**

**He shall rule God’s new creation**

**Lift up your eyes, and look again**

**See, he comes in power to reign!**

**The Grace May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore**. **Amen**

All our problems **We send to the cross of Christ**

All our difficulties **We send to the cross of Christ**

All the devils works **We send to the cross of Christ**

All our hopes **We set on the risen Christ**

**The Blessing And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen**