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Treasurers and church bank account details:

St Clement: Martin Dryden drydenmj@outlook.com **St Clements Parish Church 40-25-34 84087488**

St Nicholas: Ian Bromley captainimb@aol.com Payments for St Nicholas Church have now been clarified and these are the amended bank details for St Nicholas Church:

St Clements Parish Church 40-25-34 94289579

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.

December 1st, 2023

Dear friends of St. Clement and St. Nicholas,

As I type this the sun is shining and nobody would guess we had lived through one of the wettest Novembers on record. Usually it wouldn't have bothered me but every day of rain meant even more water dripping through the roof onto the floor of St. Nicholas as we awaited a quote for scaffolding which could then be weeks before it was fixed and we could finally waterproof the left hand side of the roof.

It all changed on Tuesday as our team worked from towers we had borrowed and some friendly scaffolders were spotted working for a local roofing firm in a nearby house. I asked if there was any chance of fitting us in and £650 and a few hours later not only had they finished but the quotation arrived for SIX times the amount. All paid by insurance but in the end passed back to consumers in higher premiums. Ecclesiastical Insurance could not have been better. Permission to carry out the first works were given within a day of phoning and a loss adjuster to collect from the airport on the Monday following the tornado, They have even agreed to pay for half the cost of replacing the aged left hand front window as well as the one which blew in. Brian Blampied attended from childhood he cared for the building with painting and carpentry and left St. Nicholas £2000 in his will. We set that aside as a fabric fund. He loved a bargain and I am sure he would have been delighted to know that his legacy will pay for not only the window but also the insurance excess so with his help it will effectively cost us nothing for a brand new roof, redecoration, front windows and new carpet and wood paneling if they don't recover. Ecclesiastical specialize in insuring churches but they also insure houses and give the church a donation for new customers, so if your recent claim has been a hassle do consider them and like Brian include the church in your will.

Thanks to the scaffolding and our amazing roofing team the church was totally waterproof by Friday and we can start drying it out and cleaning. Providing the electrics stop making a fizzing noise we hope to reopen for services on December 10th.

We hope you are keeping well,

David





The Parish of St Clement, Service of Holy Communion December 3rd , 2023

CA 480

**O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.**

***Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel, shall come to thee
O Israel.***

**O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny:
From depths of hell thy people save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. (Refrain)**

**O come, thou dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)**

**O come, thou key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;**

**Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery (Refrain)**

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.**

**Rejoice, rejoice,
Emmanuel shall come to thee
O Israel**

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

Lighting the Advent Candle – First Sunday of Advent

In this season of advent, we watch and wait and pray for the coming of light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness: selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression, shall be no more.

All: Lord, by your presence, light up the past that we might learn from it with thankfulness. Light up the present that we might live it with love. Light up the future that we might prepare for it in hope. As we watch and wait and pray, may we always be ready to encounter the Lord who is always with us. Amen.

The first candle is lit: We light this candle for all God's people, struggling to be bearers of hope in a troubled world.

All: O God, as we wait for your promise, give us light, give us hope.

The Greeting: The Lord be with you. **and also with you.**

Prayer of Preparation: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your Holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer of Penitence Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you. Pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, Heavenly King, Almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect for the First Sunday in 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**

The First Reading is taken from Isaiah Chapter 64, beginning to read at the first verse (Isaiah 64 1-9)

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you!

For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to^[a] our sins.

Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins forever.

Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

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

THE GRADUAL HYMN A&M 452

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth desceneth,
our full homage to demand.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture
In the body and the blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.**

**Rank or rank the most of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth**

**From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.**

**At his feet the six-winged seraph;
Cherubim with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to the Presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord most high.**

The Gospel Reading:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (Mark 13 24-37)

Glory to you, O Lord

“But in those days, following that distress “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it^[d] is near, right at the door Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert^[e]! You do not know when that time will come. It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

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

Reflection: Martin Some Christians think that Jesus was talking about the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 in our gospel reading, so his command to watch and wait doesn’t apply to us. Others say that they don’t have to worry because 2,000 years have passed since Jesus spoke these words and the world is still here. Maybe, but how reassuring is that when it feels scarier than at any time since the Second World War? Is it really sensible to take the world for granted as we used to do? Thinking about Jesus’ parable of the master and the servants, the question isn’t if the master is going to return from his journey, it’s when. In the meantime, he has given work to each of his servants and they know that the master will be pleased if they carry out those tasks with care and enthusiasm instead of simply going through the motions, or simply not bothering. Faithful servants don’t need to know when the master will return. Like all good scouts, let’s be prepared!

The Creed: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We

believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession: We sit or kneel Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

The name Advent comes from the Latin for 'coming' or 'arrival'. During Advent we look forward to Christ's coming and also ponder the great mystery of the Lord's return.

God of all hope and joy, open our hearts in welcome, that your Son Jesus Christ at his coming may find in us a dwelling prepared for himself.

This week, give thanks for all that is good in your life ...

Ask God for help and guidance ...

Pray for those you love ...

Pray for the people you encounter in your daily life ...

Pray for those carrying responsibilities remember people working for peace in Israel and Gaza, Ukraine and Russia. Those working to feed the hungry, to tend the sick, for all in government, for all teaching our youngsters ...

Pray for people in distress ... remembering those affected by war, by storm and flood, by sickness of mind, body and soul and for all who have been bereaved.

And a prayer from St. Dimitis of Rostov:
Come O Christ my light, and illumine my darkness,
Come my Life and revive me from death,
Come my Physician and heal my wounds.
Come, Flame of divine love and burn up the thorns of my sins,
Kindling my heart with the flame of your love,
For you alone are my King and my Lord.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace We stand to share the Peace: Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

All: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Preparation of the Table:

A&M 431

***Bread of life, hope of the world,
Jesus Christ, our brother
Feed us now, give us life,
Lead us to one another.***

As we proclaim your death,
As we recall your life
We remember your promise
To return again. *Refrain*

This bread we break and share
Was scattered once as grain:
Just as now it is gathered
Make your people one. *Refrain*

We eat this living bread
We drink this saving cup:
Sign of hope in our broken world,
Source of lasting love. *Refrain*

Be with your people Lord,
Send us your saving Word:
Jesus Christ, light of gladness,
Come among us now. *Refrain*

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. **and also with you**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, good Father to us all, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death. Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise. We join with them in heaven's song:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story. **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest**

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him. On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people.
This is his story **This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father for the food; he took bread; gave thanks, broke it and said: This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave it and said: This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story: **This is our song; Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is his story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer: Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us
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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

`Prayer before the Distribution: We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. **Amen**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Prayers after Communion: O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

.Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

The Dismissal: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**

THE FINAL HYMN CA 405

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending
Once for mortal sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ appears on earth to reign.**

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him

Robed in dreadful majesty;
We who set at naught and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
Deeply grieving
Shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture, with what rapture
With what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom for thine own
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

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.**