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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:

St Clement: Robert Sharp [robsharp@fastmail.fm](mailto:robsharp@fastmail.fm) **St Clements Parish Church 40-25-34 84087488**

St Nicholas: Ian Bromley [captainimb@aol.com](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

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

For everyone who has responded to the Gift Day appeal and gives to the church in money and time - thank you. The reality of church finances is that the collections from huge numbers attending Christmas services don't even cover the cost of publicity and candles - the services are the gift of the Christian community that worships and supports St. Clement and St Nicholas all year round. It is amazing that a small organisation expands to cope with, for example, the 4pm Christingle which sees the vestry walls removed to fit everyone in and a cast of 40 or more on the temporary stage and somehow we manage four other services that day. So thank you in advance for all volunteering and involved in music, ministry, decorating, welcoming, Christingle kit making, printing, costumes, oil candle filling and the hardest to recruit for - car parking ! It is a wonderful chance to share the faith behind the tinsel and turkey and a lot of fun.

It can also be a sad or reflective time and that is why on Sunday 22nd., in between our Christingles and Candle lit carols on the 15th and the festivities of Christmas Eve we thought we would make space at the 10.30am service for people to light a candle or write a message or a prayer on a star on the prayer tree and give thanks for the special people we can no longer celebrate Christmas with.

So sad, happy, traditional, modern, young and old, we hope we can help as many people celebrate the birth of Christ.

We hope you are keeping well,  
David

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST CLEMENT**

**MORNING WORSHIP IN ADVENT**

**December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**OPENING HYMN CA 128**

**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.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver;  
Born a child and yet a king;  
Born to reign in us for ever;  
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**Come to earth to taste our sadness  
He whose glories knew no end,  
By his life he brings us gladness  
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.**

**Leaving riches without number  
Born within a cattle stall  
This the everlasting wonder  
Christ was born the Lord of all.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit,  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit,  
Raise us to thy glorious throne.**

**Lighting the Advent Candle – Second 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.

**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 second candle is lit**

We light this candle for all God's prophets, confronting justice and restoring the dream of a world of freedom and peace.

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

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **and also with you.**

We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

***We sit or kneel to confess our sins***

A voice cries out in the wilderness 'Make straight the way of the Lord.' So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith. *cf John 1:23*

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon 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.**

**We stand** Blessed is the Lord, **for he has heard the voice of our prayer** ;therefore shall our hearts dance for joy **and in our song we will praise our God.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, Creator and Redeemer of all; to you be glory and praise for ever. From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world and in your great love fashioned us in your image. Now, through the deep waters of death, you have brought your people to new birth by raising your Son to life in triumph. May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**A&M 34**

**Earth was waiting, spent and restless,  
With a mingled hope and fear  
Faithful men and women praying,  
'Surely, Lord, the day is near:  
The Desire of all the nations –  
It is time he should appear.**

**Then the Spirit of the Highest  
To a virgin meek came down,  
And he burdened her with blessing,  
And he pained her with renown;  
For she bore the Lord's anointed  
For his cross and for his crown.**

**Earth has groaned and laboured for him  
Since the ages first began  
For in him was hid the secret  
Which through all the ages ran –  
Son of Mary, Son of David,  
Son of God and Son of Man.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.  
*We keep silence We say the Old Testament Cantic*

**Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever, for yours is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty.**

**Everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head over all.**

**Riches and honour come from you and you rule over all.**

**In your hand are power and might; yours it is to give power and strength to all. And now we give you thanks, our God, and praise your glorious name.**

**For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.**

**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.**

**The First reading is taken from Philippians, Chapter 1 beginning to read at the third verse (Philippians 1 3-11)**

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

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

### **The Gospel Cantic**

**O bless the God of Israel, who comes to set us free, who visits and redeems us and grants us liberty. The prophets spoke of mercy, of rescue and release; God shall fulfil the promise to bring our people peace. Now from the house of David a child of grace is given; a Saviour comes among us to raise us up to heaven. Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way, the prophet of salvation, the messenger of Day. Where once were fear and darkness the sun begins to rise —the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes, to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace: O bless our God and Saviour, with songs that never cease!***7.6.7.6.D*

**The Gospel Reading** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
**Glory to you, O Lord. (Luke 3 1-6)**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

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

#### **A&M 604**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
Let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace  
To let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,  
And companions on the road;  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you  
In the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you  
Speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;  
When you laugh, I’ll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
Till we’ve seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven,  
We shall find such harmony,  
Born of all we’ve know together  
Of Christ’s love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
Let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace  
To let you be my servant too.**

**Reflection: David** My favourite window is the one on the South aisle where the font used to be before it was sensibly moved to nearer the centre of the church. The window depicts Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist.

The season of Advent is one of preparation and in this week’s readings we have the picture of John clearing the road ahead of a king. In modern times pot holes are no doubt sorted before a president or royalty visit and potential trouble makers identified and often moved on to reduce distractions from the celebrations.

Spiritually we are in the season of preparing for Jesus. Strictly speaking the second coming of Jesus but for most of us preparing for Christmas is enough. Advent is a time to clear space in our lives, remove the obstructions and navigate through the busyness to catch a glimpse of the Christ Child just like the shepherds and the kings .

**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** Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Pray that God will guide our feet into the way of peace this week.

May we, together with our Christian brothers and sisters prepare our hearts to receive Jesus born anew in our hearts this Christmas.

Pray for our leaders and all in authority that they may tread a path of justice and truth.

*Spent a little time praying for an end to war and conflict, especially in the Middle East and Ukraine. Give thanks for the ceasefire between Lebanon and Israel.*

As John challenged people to look more closely at their lives, pray that we recognise all that gets in the way of us being your way to love in the world.

Pray for people who are in need at this time.

*Spend a little time holding them in your thoughts and pray they will receive the healing of Christ for today.*

Give thanks for people we love and see no more. Pray for the bereaved. May they receive comfort from the love of family, friends and strangers. Give thanks for the eternity of God's love.

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

**The Collect for the day:** 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 forever.

**The Collect for the Second Sunday in Advent:** O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen**

**The Lord's Prayer:** Gathering our prayers and praises into one, 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.**

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 the 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 Blessing:** Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

We say the Grace together: **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.**

As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ **Thanks be to God.**