

Welcome
*To Our Benefice***16th December Advent 3****Today's Collect**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries make likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Today's Readings**Zephaniah 3.14-end**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise, and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord

Luke 3.7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

If you don't usually receive Communion, you are nevertheless most welcome to come up to the communion rail to receive a prayer of blessing.

We remember in our prayers:

- Refugees and the homeless at this Christmas time
- The staff of our local schools in the last days of term
- Ella & Ben being married next Saturday.

If you have a prayer concern, please let Simon or a churchwarden know.

Advent 4

ST. ANDREW'S MORETON
9.30am Holy Communion & Holy Baptism
ST. JOHN'S LUSTLEIGH
11.00am Morning Worship

23rd December

ST. WINIFRED'S MANATON
6pm Evensong



Activities around the churches : week commencing 16th December
Do join us any day (except Wed & Sun) for Morning Prayer in St Andrew's Moreton 8.30am; or on Thursday at North Bovey Church at 9.15am. All are welcome.

Today	4.00pm	Carol Service	North Bovey Church
	6.00pm	Carol Service	Manaton Church
	6.00pm	Carol Service	Lustleigh Church
Mon 17 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice	Moreton Chapel
Tue 18 th	7.00pm	Community Carol Service	Moreton Church
Thu 20 th	9.15am	Village Prayer	North Bovey Church
	6.00pm	Carol Service	Doccombe Church
Fri 21 st	6.00pm	Wedding Practice	Moreton Church
Sat 22 nd	2.00pm	Wedding of Ben & Ella	Moreton Church

*Two weeks time on 30th December a **United Benefice Service** of Holy Communion at 10.30am at North Bovey led by The Revd Frances Miles*

NB next Sunday at Moreton, Imogen, Vicky Rose's granddaughter will be baptised at the 9.30am Communion service.

Material for 'Contact' by Thursday morning please at
beneficecontact@gmail.com
Or Tel: 01647 441413

www.moretonhampsteadparishchurch.org

The Rector's contact details are as follows:
Preb. Simon Franklin
☎ **441413** email: safranklin@btinternet.com
(Day-off Wednesday)

Christmas Eve:

CRIB SERVICE at Moreton at 5pm
MIDNIGHT COMMUNION at North Bovey,
Manaton & Lustleigh at 11.30pm (NOT AT
MORETON)

Christmas Day:

COMMUNION & CAROLS at Manaton at 9.30
& Moreton at 11.00
CHRISTMAS SERVICE at North Bovey at
10.30am & Lustleigh at 11.00am