

**St Mary, Whitegate and St Peter, Little Budworth**  
**Readings for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Advent 2**  
**Family Service or Morning Prayer**

**COLLECT:**

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.

**PSALM: 72:1-7**

Give the king your judgements, O God ♦  
*and your righteousness to the son of a  
king.*

Then shall he judge your people  
righteously ♦

*and your poor with justice.*

May the mountains bring forth peace, ♦  
*and the little hills righteousness for the  
people.*

May he defend the poor among the  
people, ♦

*deliver the children of the needy and  
crush the oppressor.*

May he live as long as the sun and moon  
endure, ♦

*from one generation to another.*

May he come down like rain upon the  
mown grass, ♦

*like the showers that water the earth.*

In his time shall righteousness flourish, ♦  
*and abundance of peace till the moon  
shall be no more.*

*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*

**FIRST READING:**

**Isaiah 11: 1-10**

A shoot shall come out from the stock of  
Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his  
roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on  
him, the spirit of wisdom and  
understanding, the spirit of counsel and  
might, the spirit of knowledge and the  
fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the  
LORD. He shall not judge by what his  
eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the  
poor, and decide with equity for the meek  
of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of  
his mouth, and with the breath of his lips  
he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around  
his waist, and faithfulness the belt around  
his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the  
leopard shall lie down with the kid, the  
calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze, their  
young shall lie down together; and the  
lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole  
of the asp, and the weaned child shall put  
its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

## SECOND READING:

### Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." '

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume 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.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

|               |                         |                   |                       |
|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Sun 7th       | St Peter's              | 4.00pm            | Christingle           |
| Sun 21st      | St Mary's               | 6.30pm            | Nine Lessons & Carols |
| Christmas Eve | St Mary's               | 4.00pm            | Crib Service          |
|               | St Peter's              | 6.30pm            | Nine Lessons & Carols |
|               | St Mary's               | 11.30pm           | Midnight Communion    |
| Christmas Day | St Mary's<br>St Peter's | 9.30am<br>11.00am | Christmas Communion   |

## AFTER THE SERVICE:

Please join us for refreshments. At St Mary's these are served in the Mews which is at the bottom of the steps leading to the village green. Toilets are available in the Mews.

At St Peter's refreshments are served in Church and there is a toilet at the back of church.

## SAFEGUARDING:

St Mary's & St Peter's take our duty and obligation to protect all extremely seriously. We have adopted the national Church of England's procedures and guidelines. You can find out more about the national policies and procedures at [www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding](http://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding)

If you have any safeguarding concerns or issues of a safeguarding matter then you can find useful contact information at:

<https://www.chesterdiocese.org> and click on the "Safeguarding" tab

