St Mary, Whitegate and St Peter, Little Budworth

Readings for Sunday 13th December – Advent 3

HOLY COMMUNION

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 may 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.

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-end

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

to provide for those who mourn in Zion to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

GOSPEL READING:

John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.'

And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.'

Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?'

He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,"Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah,nor Elijah, nor the prophet?'

John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.'

This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

POST COMMUNION:

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY 20th December		
St Mary's	9.30 am 6.30 pm	Morning Prayer and Storytelling Service 9 Lessons & Carols
St Peter's	11.00 am	Holy Communion

AFTER TODAY'S 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.

WHO TO CONTACT UNTIL A NEW VICAR IS APPOINTED

General Enquiries – please contact the Church Wardens:

St Mary's - WHITEGATE

Anne Blayney 07815 713012

Sandra Paskin 07590 125791

St Peter's - LITTLE BUDWORTH

Steve Simpson 07810 893456

Anne Hall 07973 139304

For Weddings and Baptisms

Rev Jane Millinchip 07891 981293
revjanemillinchip@outlook.com

For Funerals

Rev Dr John Stopford 01606 558802
jstopford801@btinternet.com

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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

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