

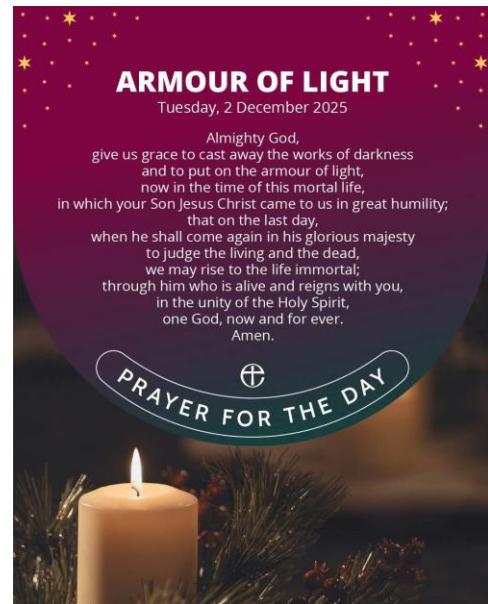
7th – 13th December 2025 ADVENT – The Prophets – NEWSLETTER

‘...with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth (Isaiah 11:4)

Dear friends,

We are called to heed God’s messages spoken through the Prophets in this 2nd week of ADVENT.

Earlier in the week, this prayer drew my attention. We are so in need of it. As we approach the precious time of Christmas, in London and our nation’s large cities, political activists are making plans to use Christmas for their causes. You’ve seen the use of England’s flag of St George flying not on a feast day or for a national event, but to claim it for their own. Our Bible passages this Sunday warn those who use God’s name for false purposes. Let us not be deceived. **God came in his love for all.** Jesus came in troubling circumstances, in Bethlehem – today a place next to Palestine, where families and children have been made homeless, maimed, and bereaved. Because leaders of every nation have not heeded the signs of a groaning world, many communities will spend Christmas in temporary shelters. Floods have swept through them with such ferocity, it’s shocked the world. How thankful we are to be spared.



We celebrated our **3rd Christmas Afternoon Tea at Staindrop Academy** this week. All 4 parishes were there with the students for a festive time of carols and tea. Headteacher Sarah Mitchinson was delighted to welcome us.

Pray for our schools, churches, and GATHER
All welcome to Christingle and Carol services the fortnight before Christmas

Schools Christingle Services in Church

Gainford Wednesday 17th
9.30am

Ingleton Thursday 18th 11am
Staindrop Friday 19th 1.30pm

Staindrop Academy –
Christmas Experience &
Service Friday 19th 9.30am

Churches celebrate Christmas

Gainford Churches Together
Carol Service Sunday 21st 6pm
Ingleton Carol Service Sunday 14th 11am
Staindrop Nine Lessons & Carols
Thursday 18th 6.30pm

Winston Carols by Candlelight
Wednesday 24th 7pm

GATHER



Services on the 2nd of ADVENT:

9.15am Staindrop St Mary
9.30am Winston St Andrew
10.45am Gainford St Mary

Service of the Word
Holy Communion
Holy Communion

The Worship Group
Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop
Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

† Please pray for:

- **the family of Geoffrey Mennell lately of Gainford**, whose funeral service will be at Gainford St Mary's on Friday 5th December 11am and thereafter for burial in the cemetery.
- **The family of June Tallentire of Gainford**, whose funeral service will be at Gainford St Mary's on Monday 22nd December 11am and therefore for burial in the cemetery.

† **The people of Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Philippines and other places who have lost their lives, homes and livelihoods from typhoons and floods** – please enquire at our churches how you could give towards disaster relief.

Please continue to pray for the people of Hong Kong especially the bereaved, injured, and homeless, in the tragedy at Tai Po.



NOTICES

Come along to our **TUESDAY EVENINGS STUDYING THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK** prepared by Licensed Lay Minister in Training Peter Craig and co-led by Sarah Fells Ordinand in Discernment **at 2 OLIVERS GARDENS, STAINDROP 6.30-7.30PM. All welcome to join the remaining session on 9th DECEMBER.**



STAINDROP ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Beckons with Christmassy homemade cakes, biscuits and goodies with hot drinks at £2.50 only. There's a raffle and winners can top up Christmas presents.

Friday 12th December 10am – 11.30am

ORGANISTS WANTED! Entering a new season for several of our churches, we are looking for pianists and organists. This is such a precious, joyful, offering that has blessed us from one generation to the next. Have a chat with our churchwardens in **Winston, Ingleton, and Gainford**, if you or someone you know would welcome more information or wish to have a go on our organs (and in Gainford, the Clavinova).

A Church Near You! Each of our churches have a free web page on The Church of England's server. Research has shown how this is where many people search the internet when looking for a church to attend, or when considering where they may move to. **We need someone to help administer Gainford St Mary's 'A Church Near You' web page.** For anyone comfortable with using the computer or social media, this is an easy task that doesn't take much time or effort. It would mean a great deal to our church. Might you be able to help? **Please contact Sue 01325 730379**

PCC MEMBERS WANTED! God is revealing great opportunities for our parish in Staindrop St Mary's to engage with the schools and community, so we are praying for more members on our PCC. **We can co-opt members who may not already be registered on our church electoral roll**, if anyone is interested to work with the church to enliven and strengthen our ability to serve and bless our community. For information and a chat, contact us at contact@stmarysstaindrop.org.uk

My landline is down at The Vicarage. Please use my mobile number 07976676098 if you need to get in touch by phone. Thanks. Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

COLLECT for the 2nd of 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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the world
and will send him again to be our judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
² 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.
³ 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;
⁴ 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.
⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The Gospel: 3:1-12

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ³ 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.”’

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ 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? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ ‘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. ¹² 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.’

⁶ 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.
⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the
asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the
adder’s den.
⁹ 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.
¹⁰ 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.