

## Notices

**Monday 11 December** 1:15 pm  
Christmas Cracked at Southwood School  
Conniburrow. If you would like to help please  
speak to Gill.

**Thursday 14 December** 2.00 for 2.30 to  
4.00 pm Home Bible Study, at Mike and Pru  
McConnell's 15 Kemble Ct, Downhead Pk.  
Advent Course - Preparation for Christmas -  
Next Group 4th January.

**Friday 15 December** 1.15 – 2.45 pm  
Family Tots. An open group for parents and  
carers with pre-school children.

**Friday 15 December** 6:30 Signed Carol  
Service. Please take a leaflet.

## Please Pray

For our members & friends: Dina and Peter,  
Dan Cavanagh, Alan Budds, Alice Maynard

**For the sick:** Amy in hospital, Betty Lloyd at  
Water Hall, Water Eaton. Neville Gray  
recovering from operation. Becca Page, Paul  
(Sue Baines' cousin) receiving ongoing  
treatment. Shirley, Yvonne. Carol awaiting  
completion of an operation.

### Please pray for:

- The people of California fleeing forest fires.
- The church officers in the responsibility they  
carry for the church in this time of vacancy.

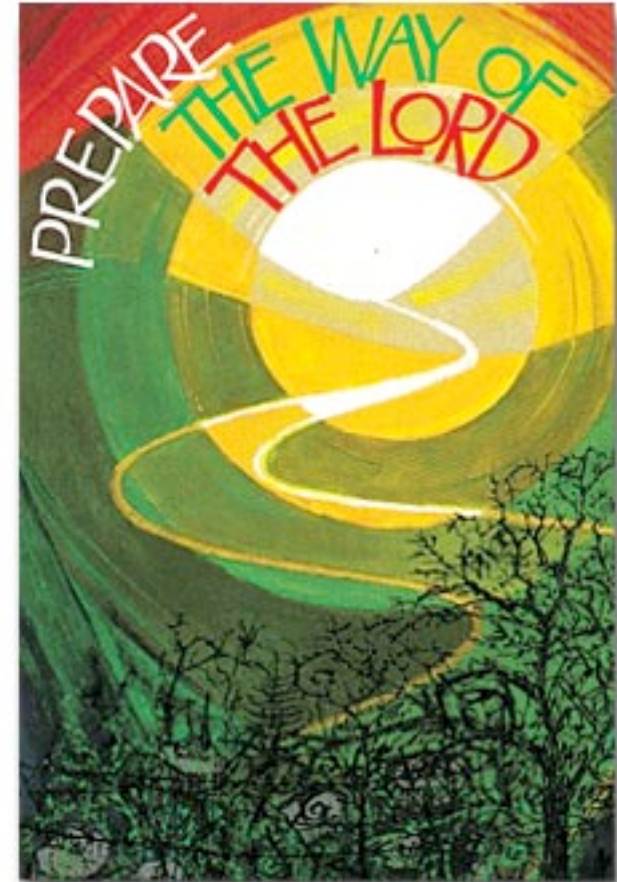
All powerful God,  
You are present in the whole universe  
And in the smallest of your creatures.  
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.  
Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
That we may protect life and beauty.  
Fill us with peace, that we may live  
As brothers and sisters, harming no one.  
O God of the poor,  
Help us to rescue the abandoned  
And forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.  
Bring healing to our lives,  
That we may protect the world and not prey upon it,  
That we may sow beauty,  
Not pollution and destruction. . .  
Encourage us, we pray in our struggle  
For justice, love and peace.

*Pope Francis, 'Laudato Si'*

reflection  
reflektion

## The Cross and Stable

### 10th December - Advent Two



**Next Sunday - Advent Three - 17th December**

**11 am Morning Worship - Chris Linford - Methodist Local Preacher**

Isaiah 62:1-4, 8-end, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Cross and Stable is part of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership  
Church of England • Baptist Union • Methodist Church • United Reformed Church

## Hymns

424 Lo he comes with clouds descending  
204 Hail to the Lord's anointed  
673 There is a redeemer  
393 Joy to the world

## Collect 2nd Sunday in Advent

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again  
as judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.**AMEN**

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

### Comfort for God's people

Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been completed,  
that her sin has been paid for,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling:  
'In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the Lord;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.

### Please pray for:

- The Home Bible Study group looking at the Advent Course of preparation for Christmas, that they will find encouragement and wisdom in God's word.
- Family Tots, praying for its flourishing in the future.

Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.  
And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.  
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out.'  
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

'All people are like grass,  
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers  
of the field.  
The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the Lord blows on  
them.  
Surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures for  
ever.'

You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.  
You who bring good news to Jerusalem,  
lift up your voice with a shout,  
lift it up, do not be afraid;  
say to the towns of Judah,  
'Here is your God!'  
See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.  
See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.  
He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
he gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young,

- For Andy and Jane still struggling with where to live.
- For Peace: that we act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you, our God.
- Pray for Jerusalem, eternal City of Peace

## Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

Hear the Gospel according to Mark

### Glory to Christ our Saviour

#### John the Baptist prepares the way

The beginning of the good news about Jesus  
the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in  
Isaiah the prophet:

'I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way' –  
'a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
"Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him."'

And so John the Baptist appeared in the  
wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance  
for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean  
countryside and all the people of Jerusalem  
went out to him. Confessing their sins, they  
were baptised by him in the River Jordan. John  
wore clothing made of camel's hair; with a  
leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts  
and wild honey. And this was his message:  
'After me comes the one more powerful than  
I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy  
to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with  
water; but he will baptise you with the Holy  
Spirit.'

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

## Contacts

### Churchwarden - Bob Cross

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### Notice Sheet - Gwen Green

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## Advent Ring - Advent 2

- 1: Through Jesus, God made all things
- 2: **Not one thing in all creation was made without Him**
- 1: He was the source of life
- 2: **and this light brought light to humanity**

*The first candle is lit*

- 1: God sent his messenger, named John
- 2: **who came to tell people about the light**
- 1: He himself was not the light
- 2: **He came to tell people about the light**

*The second candle is lit*

## Websites

### Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership

www.stantonbury.net

### Cross & Stable

www.crossandstable.weebly.com