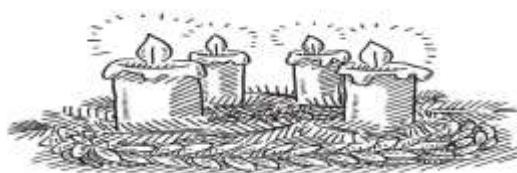


Reflection –Advent 2025

When I was working in the Joiner's Shop on my "day job" my task was to prepare projects to be assembled by the Bench Joiners, I needed a vision of what the finished product should look like, I'm sure without that vision it would have been difficult to proceed. Without an adequate vision how could we be prepared to live this life as God wants us to live?

Here at St Thomas we are writing a new Chapter in it's great story ... what is your vision today on this first day in the new Church calendar? We as Christians need to nurture the vision of the Prophets and Apostles within ourselves. We are called to bring light to the dark corners of our communities and this world to bring hope not add to the darkness or the suffering by denying the hope that God intends the world to have. It's a vision that runs throughout the Bible. It is a Promise that has substance to it, unlike some promises we have witnessed in today's world.

Fr Terry



NEXT SUNDAY 07.12.25 Second Sunday of Advent

10.30am in the Hall

READINGS: OT Isaiah 11: 1-10

NT Romans 15: 4-13

GOSPEL Matthew 3: 1-12



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St Thomas, Exeter

30th November 2025

Advent Sunday

10.30am in the Hall

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

49 Awake, awake, fling off the night

365 O God of earth and altar

Longing for light

307 Lo, he comes with clouds descending

1.30-3.30pm Advent Window making.

Tuesday 2nd December

7.30pm House Group at John's house.

Wednesday 3rd December

10am Walsingham Mass

Thursday 4th December

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter at Jenny Tuckett's house

Friday 5th December

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Isaiah 2: 1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Romans 13: 11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 24: 36-44

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Post Communion

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Notices

The House Group Advent Course will be looking at the prophesies and passages of the Christmas stories. The next meeting is this Tuesday, 2nd December and then weekly until the 16th December. See Ian for details.

Do come and join us to make your **Advent Windows** and continue (or begin!) the tradition in your street. Liz and Rev Sarah will host an Advent Window making session in the hall this week on Sunday 30 November 1.30-3.30pm. The session is free and all materials are provided, please invite your neighbours and friends.

On Sunday 30th November **Bridge Books** will be open to those who need a Sunday opening for doing their Christmas shopping, from 11.30am till 1.30pm. We have a great selection of charity Christmas cards and quality Christian children's and adult books, plus a large selection of Bibles, calendars and gifts for all ages to choose from. Think about what would be an encouragement to your family and friends. Then buy early to save being disappointed. If you can't come to our shop, do make the most of our website www.bridgebookshop.co.uk You can also order via email: sales@bridgebookshop.co.uk, or call us on 01392 427171. Then collect in the shop or have them posted out to you.

On the **3rd December** Revd Sarah, Mary, Ian and Jon will be meeting the Archdeacon and various members of the Buildings and Grants teams. Continue to support us with our building project and the vacancy process. We will keep you updated on progress. Please pray for us.

We will be decorating the Church and hall for Christmas on **Sunday 7th December**. Please stay after the service and join us.

Advance Notice

Flyers are now available detailing our Christmas services. Please distribute them to family and friends.

Sunday 14th December 4pm & 6pm. Carol services with Grace Church.

Saturday 20th December 4pm. Blue Christmas service.

Sunday 21st December 3pm. Christingle Messier Church

Christmas Eve 4pm Family Crib Service.
11pm Midnight Mass.

Christmas Day 9.30am Family service.

