

**Welcome to the Mells Group of Parishes**  
**Chantry, Great Elm,**  
**Mells with Vobster, Whatley**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Second Sunday of Advent**

9.30am Holy Communion at Mells led by David Gatcliffe

9.30am Matins at Whatley led by Hazel Tovey

11.00am Matins at Chantry led by Hazel Tovey

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Third Sunday of Advent**

9.30am: Holy Communion at Great Elm led by David Gatcliffe

11.00am Toy Service at Chantry

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**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.

**First Reading: Baruch 5 1-9**

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name, 'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look towards the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

## **Canticle - Benedictus**

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us,  
To show mercy to our ancestors,  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

## **Second Reading: Philippians 1 3-11**

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

## **Gospel: Luke 3 1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

## **Post Communion**

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.