



15 November 2020



For meditation:

God of love, we come into your presence aware that you love us from everlasting to everlasting. Your love touches us in all our being. Before we were born you loved us and your love will follow us to the end of eternity. Fill our lives with your spirit and help us to love as we are loved.
Betty Radford Turcott (Canada)

NEWS AND VIEWS

This past week has been Living Wage week. This hourly pay rate is defined as the minimum income necessary for a worker to meet their basic needs. The new rate of £9.50 was announced on Monday and employers are encouraged to pay this to their employees in 2021. It will be a challenge for many in these times.

Advent Study Material

Rev Elizabeth is preparing material to take us through the season of Advent. If you would like to receive this please let her know.

Christmas Hampers & Gifts – Southdown

It has been agreed with Deacon Annie that given the challenges of the lockdown we will send a cash donation via our treasurer, Margaret. If you would like to contribute please let Margaret know as soon as possible. Thanks.

Good News – the Rev Dr Simon Topping, currently Deputy Superintendent in Gloucestershire Circuit, is to be our new minister in September 2021 (subject to Conference confirmation). See over for more details.

POINTS FOR PRAYER

As the virus death toll continues to rise pray for those who have lost loved ones and those dealing with escalating pressure in the NHS. Pray too for those working around the clock to produce vaccines. In the circuit we support in prayer the congregation at Timsbury and the residents and staff at Stratton House, Bath and continue to uphold Bethan and the other students in Chapel House.

LECTIONARY READINGS – 22 November

Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100
Ephesians 1: 15-23 Matthew 25: 31 - 46

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

All of you are people who belong to the light, who belong to the day.....We must wear faith and love as a breastplate, and our hope of salvation as a helmet. God did not choose us to suffer his anger, but to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us in order that we might live together with him, whether we are alive or dead when he comes. And so encourage one another and help one another, just as you are now doing. 1 Thessalonians 5: 3, 8-11

DIARY

Eco Church Workshop

A free 2 hour workshop is being organised on Wednesday 25th November at 7pm via Zoom. There will be a short presentation by Dave Bookless of A Rocha (who oversee the Eco Church scheme). Registration is at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eco-church-workshop-tickets-127074616599>.

Lord, whose love through humble service
Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken,
Offered mercy's perfect deed:
We, your servants bring the worship
Not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to your purpose
Every gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless;
Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom;
Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, your deep compassion
Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love your spirit kindles
Still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision,
Till your love's revealing light
In its height and depth and greatness
Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens
Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving
Your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service,
Forth in your dear name we go
To the child, the youth, the aged,
Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort,
Counsel, aid and peace we give,
That your servants, Lord, in freedom
May your mercy know, and live.

Albert Frederick Bayly