

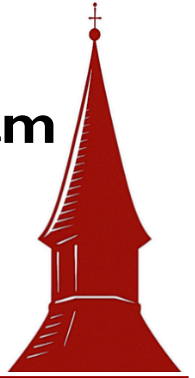
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# Welcome to St Mark's Church, Newnham

Sunday, 14th December 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent

Jesus Christ ...*forever*



## Today's services

### 8am Holy Communion (BCP)

Service Leader and Preacher: The Revd Canon Tom Buchanan

### 9.30am Morning Worship

Service Leader: The Revd Kennedy Emokpaire

Preacher: Alison Rose

### 6pm Choral Evensong

#### Practicalities

There is a fully accessible toilet as well as baby-changing facilities in the Community Centre across the car park behind the church.

#### Children

All are welcome in God's house and we delight in all ages gathering for worship. Please don't worry if your little ones make a noise or need to run around. There is a play area at the back; if younger members are more comfortable there, they are very welcome to dive in. Junior Church runs at the same time as the 9.30am service every week during term time. It is open to all ages and is based around storytelling and wondering, with art and craft too.

We begin in church and then head round to the Community Centre, returning for the Eucharist and then back out for a feast!

#### Collection

We are not taking an offering during our services at this time, but there is a collection plate at the back of the church along with a giving station where you are able to donate via card payment. You can also give via our website.

Visit us online at: <https://stmarksnewnham.org> where you can sign up for our email.

**Hymns:** 38 Hark a thrilling voice is sounding  
27 Colours of day  
47 People look east

**Anthem:** Song of Mary - Shephard

**For your prayers:** The King; Anne Howie; Nancy.

### **Collect Prayer for the Week:**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Isaiah 35.1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### **Matthew 11.2-11**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

<b>Notices and Dates for your Diaries</b>
<b>Carols at Crofters - TODAY at 2pm</b> Come along to Crofters cafe on Lammas land and sing some carols, in between helpings of mince pies and mulled wine! Wear a silly jumper. Bring a dog if you have one. All welcome.
<b>Carol Service - Sunday 21st December 5pm</b> As part of this annual highlight, we love to offer some hospitality. If you are able to contribute something to the table (mince pies/ sausage rolls/ canapé type things...), or help set things up/serve, please get in touch with Nigel, the church warden: <a href="mailto:nigel.porter@rocketmail.com">nigel.porter@rocketmail.com</a>

## Useful contacts

**For pastoral enquiries or questions about special services (baptisms, weddings, and funerals) please contact our vicar. For information about our visiting group please contact our administrator.**

**Vicar:** The Revd Jim Robinson | revjrobinson@gmail.com | 01223 455463

**Curate:** The Revd Kennedy Emokpaire | kemokpaire@gmail.com | 07961 916576

**Assistant Priests:** The Revd Canon Tom Buchanan | revtbuchanan@gmail.com

The Revd Andrew Hurst | andrewhurst65@outlook.com

**Parish Safeguarding Officer:** James Gorick | safeguarding@stmarksnewnham.org

**Choir Director:** Marcus Cox | singing@stmarksnewnham.org

**Treasurer:** Xanthe Langley | treasurer@stmarksnewnham.org

**Churchwardens:** Nigel Porter | 07910242717

Sarah Perry | sarahperrywarden@gmail.com

**Administrator:** Felicity Parker | administrator@stmarksnewnham.org

**Community Centre:** Xanthe Langley | communitycentre@stmarksnewnham.org

## Services this week

**Tuesday, 16th December**

**11am, Holy Communion (BCP)** led by The Revd Jim Robinson

**Sunday, 21st December**

**8am, Holy Communion (BCP)** led by The Revd Jeremy Begbie

**9.30am, Holy Communion** led by The Revd Andrew Hurst with The Revd Kennedy Emokpaire preaching

**5pm, Christmas Carol Service**

**Morning Prayer** is held on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 9am.**

## Charity of the Month: Embrace the Middle East

Embrace the Middle East works with Christians in Egypt, Iraq, Israel-Palestine, Lebanon and Syria to tackle poverty and injustice in the region, responding to all kinds of needs - for refuge, a home, for health care, for education, for justice and human rights - by supporting health, education and community projects, which bring vital services to those at risk of marginalisation and exclusion. Partnership is at the centre of Embrace's vision of transformation. As the Arab saying goes, 'there is bread and salt between us'. It means we sit at the table as equals, in an alliance of fellowship. We currently have over 40 courageous, inspired, creative and skilled partners in the region. All are working to transform lives; all are inspired by the Gospel.