

St Neots Parish Church (St Mary) & Eynesbury St Mary

## Welcome to Worship!

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025

The Third Sunday of Advent

### Services today

8 a.m.	Eucharist (BCP)	St Neots Parish Church
9.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist <i>President &amp; Preacher – The Rector</i>	St Neots Parish Church <b>Thorne</b>
<b>Hymns:</b>	<b>327; 36; 55; Anthem + 52; 44 (1<sup>st</sup> t)</b>	
11 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	Eynesbury
<b>Hymns:</b>	<b>327; 36; 55; 44 (1<sup>st</sup> t)</b>	<b>Thorne</b>
4 p.m.	Christingle (with workshop from 2.30 p.m.)	St Neots Parish Church

### Services & Events this week

Monday	18.00	Crackerjacks Nursery Carols	SNPC
Wednesday	09.30	Eucharist	SNPC
		<i>Please note - this service will <u>not</u> take place on Wed 24<sup>th</sup> (Christmas Eve)</i>	
	10.30	St Mary's School Carol Service	SNPC
Thursday	09.30	Eucharist	Eynesbury
	11.00	Funeral (Booth)	SNPC
	14.00	Eynesbury School Carol Service	Eynesbury
	19.30	Carols around the Organ	Eynesbury
Friday	09.30	Eucharist	SNPC
	10.30	Diamond Learning P'ship Carol Service	SNPC

### Services for next Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> December (Advent 4):

8 a.m.	Eucharist (BCP)	St Neots Parish Church
9.30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	St Neots Parish Church
11 a.m.	Sung Eucharist	Eynesbury
6 p.m.	Service of Lessons and Carols	St Neots Parish Church

#### Giving for the work of the Church

We do not pass a collection plate around the congregation during the service, but we always welcome donations from those who attend worship, either in cash or by using the card reader near the door at SNPC before or after the service.

Please Gift Aid that donation if you can do so (envelopes are available).

We also encourage regular givers to become members of the Parish Giving Scheme (which is how many Church members make their donations).

Please ask at the door, or via the Office, if you want more information about this.



*The Parish of St Neots with Eynesbury, Reg Charity No 1195248, in the Church of England Diocese of Ely.*

*Rector: The Revd Canon Paul Hutchinson, The Rectory, Church Street, 01480 471297*

*Office: Church Street, 01480 370312; [office@stneots.org](mailto:office@stneots.org) - [www.stneots.org](http://www.stneots.org) Weekly Sheet 20251114*

### **Collect for Advent 3**

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.

### **Alternative Collect for Advent 3**

God for whom we watch and wait,  
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:  
give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice,  
and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **New Testament Reading (first in service): James 5.7-10**

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 11.2-11**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' <sup>7</sup>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? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>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."  
<sup>11</sup>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.

## **Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures (not used): Isaiah 35.1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus <sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> 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.'

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup> 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;

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for these heavenly gifts;

kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again

we may shine as lights before his face;

who is alive and reigns now and for ever.

## Further Ahead

### Please note

- There will be no Wednesday 9.30 a.m. Eucharist at SNPC on the morning of 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve).
- There will be no 'Saturday Social' or connected eucharist on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December – the next will be on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January.
- The choir and friends are singing Evensong at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – supporters are very welcome!
- There will be no 8 a.m. BCP Eucharist on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January, but the Feast of the Epiphany will be kept on that day.
- There will be no 'All Aboard' in January – the next will be on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February.

## Christmas Eve & Morning Services in the Churches

### Christmas Eve

4 p.m.	Crib Service with Carols	St Neots Parish Church
5.30 p.m.	Crib Service with Carols	Eynesbury
11 p.m.	'Midnight' Eucharist (Carols from 10.30)	St Neots Parish Church

### Christmas Morning

8 a.m.	Quiet BCP Eucharist	St Neots Parish Church
9.30 a.m.	Family Eucharist with Carols	St Neots Parish Church
11 a.m.	Eucharist with Carols	Eynesbury

### Boxing Day (St Stephen)

9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St Neots Parish Church
-----------	-----------	------------------------