

## Advent 2023

### Praying for healing

- ◆ God's promise of healing lies at the heart of our Christian faith and, most specially, in the advent – the coming – of our Lord Jesus Christ. As foretold by the prophet Isaiah: he comes to bind up the broken-hearted and proclaim liberty to captives; in him, the eyes of the blind are opened, the ears of the deaf unstopped, and the lame leap like a hart.
- ◆ Right now, our faith and hope are challenged as we witness to the brokenness of our world: nations torn apart by conflict and violence, the devastating impact of the climate crisis, and communities and lives where God's healing is so urgently needed.
- ◆ For us and for our world, this is the promise in the coming of Jesus: healing of broken bodies, painful memories, divided communities and nations; the healing of the earth itself and our relationship with it.
- ◆ And so, in our Advent Quiet Day we reflect on God's promise of healing and what that means for us. Then – through the three home-group sessions – we focus in turn on healing of the nations, healing for creation, and healing in our own lives.

“The God who created the galaxies - and us - must hover over that creation like a mother over a baby in a pram, and yearn for goodness and wholeness and health and security and happiness for it.” (Theologian Kate McIlhagga).

### Advent Quiet Day

Saturday 25th November, 10.30am-3.30pm  
Shipton Moyne Village Hall, The Street, Shipton Moyne (opposite The Cat). Please contact Diana to let us know you're coming (details below)

### Advent Home Groups

The Advent home groups meet three times, in the weeks beginning 27th November, 4th December and 11th December. You don't need to go to the Quiet Day to join a home group.

- ◆ **Monday 2.30pm:** led and hosted by Sarah Parton and meeting at 10 Dormers Close
- ◆ **Monday 7pm:** led by Mary Hinton, hosted by Rosemary & Michael Bailey and meeting at 21 Cirencester Road
- ◆ **Tuesday 7pm:** led by Andrea Aveyard, hosted by The Revd Ian Aveyard and meeting at 19 The Damsells
- ◆ **Tuesday 7.30pm:** led by Barry Raven, hosted by Steve Bullock and meeting at 30 Brays Avenue
- ◆ **Wednesday 10.30am:** led by Poppy Hughes and Pauline Setterfield, and meeting at The Vicarage, 6 The Green
- ◆ **Thursday 7pm:** led by Geraldine Geers, hosted by Mike and Moira Hardwick, and meeting at Ashton House, 8 Priory Way

Would you like to join a home group?  
Please contact Diana Sharp in the Parish Office  
and she will find you a home:  
**01666 500 088 / office@tetburychurch.co.uk**  
If you're already in a group,  
your leader & host will be in touch

THE BENEFICE OF TETBURY,  
BEVERSTON, LONG NEWNTON  
& SHIPTON MOYNE

## Advent Quiet Day & Home Groups 2023:

## Praying for healing



## ADVENT QUIET DAY: PRAYING FOR HEALING

Saturday 25th November, 10.30am-3.30pm  
Shipton Moyne Village Hall, The Street,  
Shipton Moyne (opposite The Cat).  
Lunch will be provided (suggested donation £4).

We begin by reflecting on what healing is and what we pray for when we ask for healing. In our Bible study, we explore God's promise of restoration and wholeness in the coming – the Advent – of Jesus. And in quiet time in the afternoon there is an opportunity to use creative approaches to prayer for healing, as well as time to read, walk or simply rest.

Bible readings: Isaiah 61:1-3; Luke 4:16-21

## Our programme for the day

- 10.30am Welcome & Morning Prayer
- 11.00am Reflection, Bible study and discussion
- 12.15pm Midday Prayer
- 12.45pm Lunch is provided
- 1.45pm Silent time for individual reflection, prayer, reading, walking and rest
- 3.00pm Evening Prayer

**SIGN UP FOR THE QUIET DAY:**  
contact **Diana on 01666 500 088 or**  
**office@tetburychurch.co.uk**

Our home groups then meet for three weeks through Advent, starting in w/c Monday 27th November. You do not need to attend the Quiet Day to take part in a home group.

## ADVENT HOME GROUPS WEEK 1: HEALING FOR THE NATIONS

- ◆ We start by sharing the people and places around the world in our prayers at this time. Everyone is invited to bring perhaps an object, picture or headline to the group, as we reflect on all the places where people cry out for the healing of freedom, justice and peace.
- ◆ We turn to the Prophet Isaiah to talk about God's promise of the healing of the nations, with a quiet time to offer our prayers to God.
- ◆ Bible readings: Isaiah 2:1-5; Isaiah 11:1-9

## ADVENT HOME GROUPS WEEK 2: HEALING FOR CREATION

- ◆ As we witness to global warming and the devastating effects of the climate crisis, we return to our commission from God to be good stewards of the earth.
- ◆ Studying the account of creation in Genesis 1, we reflect on what it means to seek to treasure God's world, and pray for the healing of creation through the sustaining and renewing of the life of the earth.
- ◆ Bible reading: Genesis 1

## ADVENT HOME GROUPS WEEK 3: HEALING IN OUR LIVES

- ◆ Our Bible reading sets out God's wonderful promise of healing: when sorrow and sighing will flee away, with the breaking in of everlasting joy and gladness.
- ◆ We consider our own need for healing: body, heart, mind and soul; and the need for the healing of relationship in our families and communities.
- ◆ We end by commending all our prayers to our loving and faithful God, confident that – in the words of the wonderful hymn "Be still" – no work is too hard for him.
- ◆ Bible reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

The Advent home groups meet three times, in the weeks beginning 27th November, 4th December and 11th December.

- ◆ **Monday 2.30pm:** led and hosted by Sarah Parton
- ◆ **Monday 7pm:** led by Mary Hinton, and hosted by Rosemary & Michael Bailey
- ◆ **Tuesday 7pm:** led by Andrea Aveyard, and hosted by The Revd Ian Aveyard
- ◆ **Tuesday 7.30pm:** led by Barry Raven, and hosted by Steve Bullock
- ◆ **Wednesday 10.30am:** led and hosted by Poppy Hughes and Pauline Setterfield
- ◆ **Thursday 7pm:** led by Geraldine Geers, and hosted by Mike and Moira Hardwick