



Sunday 12 December 2021  
@ PPT Bovey Tracey & St Mary's Hennock



*The Vicar writes*

“A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a long journey:  
The ways deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter.” (TS Eliot: the Journey of the Magi)

Last week we were reminded to “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5.16)

It was really encouraging to see so many families in church for Christingle last Sunday, and it was a splendid occasion despite the cold- well done to the team who planned the service and served mince pies and hot chocolate afterwards. Please pray for the practical arrangements for the remaining services.



I am sorry to report that the church heating has broken. The part is on order, but if you have an electric space heater we would be very grateful for its loan for Sunday and Monday this week. Please come warmly dressed on Sunday!

You will have heard that the government has decreed that as a precautionary measure face coverings are mandatory for everyone 11 or older (not otherwise exempt) inside places of worship- but you are allowed to remove them to sing, or lead parts of the service, and we can still serve refreshments. I will of course observe these rules, but I will not enforce them. Please continue to sanitise hands and respect the sensitivities of others.

“In all circumstances, give thanks”. We can still meet and worship- so let us not give up meeting together: we have a gospel message to proclaim.

yours in Christ,  
Graham

PS You should all have received a copy of the Churches Together Christmas leaflet through the post, delivered at the same time as “My Bovey” magazine. If you have not received it, please let me know (833813 vicar@pptbovey.church), as we are monitoring the effectiveness of the delivery company.

**S**

Please remember not to park opposite the church for the sake of our neighbours, and only to use the tower drive spaces if you are disabled.

### **What's on this week: Sun 12: Third Sunday of Advent**

PPT Readings am & pm: Acts 17.16-34, Luke 3.7-18  
 9.30am Sunday Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton  
 11.00am Holy Communion: Rev Graham Hamilton  
 5.00pm Prayer & Praise: Rev Graham Hamilton  
 7.00pm 14-18s in the Church Room

**St Mary's** 11.00am Morning Worship: Mrs Carolyn Laycock  
 Hennock Readings: 1 Thess 5.12-end, Luke 3.1-6

13 Mon 9.00am Morning prayer on Zoom  
 5.00pm & 6.30pm Bovey Tracey Primary School Carol services  
 14 Tue 9.30am Mums' bible study in the church room  
 15 Wed 10.00am Communion service: Rev Graham Hamilton  
 7.00pm Midweek Prayer Group (on Zoom- see notes)  
 16 Thu 7.00am Men's Prayer Breakfast in the Church Room  
 17 Fri 9.00am Morning prayer on Zoom  
 18 Sat 9.00am Morning prayer on Zoom

### **19 Sun**

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

PPT Readings am: Micah 5.2-5, Luke 1.39-45  
 9.30am Sunday Praise: Canon Michael Sansom  
 (Lord's Supper)  
 11.00am Morning Worship: Canon Michael Sansom  
 6.00pm Carols by Candlelight: Rev Graham Hamilton  
 7.00pm 14-18s at Rellian, Liverton  
**St Mary's** 4.00pm Carols by Candlelight: Rev Graham Hamilton

### **Discussion Questions: What is the good news today?**

What sort of news would you feel the need to share with a neighbour?

What was the message of John the Baptist?

What was the spiritual state of his audience?

What was Paul's message to the Athenians? What was their spiritual state?

What makes the gospel 'good news' today?

How should we share it this Christmas?

Pray for courage and wisdom to invite someone to a Christmas service!

### **What is the Gospel today?**

Different ways of explaining the gospel can be found here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe>

<https://www.twowaystolive.com>

<https://www.uniontheology.org/resources/bible/biblical-theology/321-the-story-of-god-the-world-and-you>

## **Notices:**

Space Heaters: if you have an oil-filled electric radiator, we would be glad of its loan for the weekend to heat the church. Please contact the vicar/ wardens

## **Stewarding at Christmas services:** We still need a few volunteers:

Christmas Eve 11pm: steward and intercessor

Christmas Day: 9.30am: steward

Sunday 26th: 10am Communion: server

Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help.

**Church Office update:** the PCC has decided to upgrade the photocopier. The new one will be installed in the new office pod in January, so the old one will remain in use in the former office space until the new year. We are still looking for a smaller desk on which to mount the office computer.

## **New to PPT?**

We email this bulletin every week (with working links) to the members of the Church Family Roll. If you would like to receive this, to join the electoral roll, or find out more what it means to be part of the church family, then please complete a "Connect" card from the pews.

**Christmas Fair:** Thank-you to everyone who was involved both by helping and attending the Christmas fair. We had a lovely afternoon and raised in the region of £300 after all donations are in.

## **Daily Prayer Meetings**

Some are held in person on Wednesday at 10am and Thursday at 7am, and on Zoom at 9am on Monday, Friday and Saturday and Sunday at 9.30am.

The Zoom code for all services at PPT is:-

<https://zoom.us/j/98621308247pwd=RGRoR2RXK3hac1IWQnJKL0qwbmxmdz09>

Meeting ID: 986 2130 8247 Passcode: 102020

## **Sunday recordings:**

We regret that the 9.30am service is **not** currently being streamed on Zoom, as we cannot get the sound quality, but the sermon is recorded and uploaded to the church website. We hope to record and upload at least one Christmas service to our PPTV Youtube site.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQsEU-cx-04ZRzMTAspQEXQ>

## **Prayer List:**

Juliet Borowiec, Pat Savage-Jones, Ann English, Michelle Sadd, Mary Bambridge, Veronica Laurie, Wendy Harrison, Theresa Samuels, Lucy McIlhenney, David Elliott, Paul Monahan, Hans Hodes, Ester Weeks, Ann Goulden, Corola Saunders, Joan Codner.

In memory: Fr Michael Crowe

**Collect for Third Sunday of Advent:**

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.

**Mon 13 December: Ps 40, Isaiah 38.1-8, 21-22**

Pray for Bovey Tracey Primary School holding carol services in church today, and for the Fellowship Christmas tea at the House of Marbles this afternoon.

**Tue 14 December: Ps 70, Isaiah 38.9-20**

Pray for those who face Christmas in care homes or alone at home, pray for neighbours and carers who support them.

**Wed 15 December: Ps 75, Isaiah 39**

Pray for the work of Open Doors, and for Christians facing persecution and prejudice, especially in Nigeria, facing intensified attack from jihadist groups, to persevere in faith.

**Thu 16 December: Ps 76, Zephaniah 1.1-2.3**

Pray for all who are pregnant, especially those on their own or facing hard decisions, and for the work of Exeter Choices Pregnancy Centre

**Fri 17 December: Ps 98, Zephaniah 3.1-13**

Pray for the carol singing in Hennock this afternoon, and Teign Village tomorrow, to build better relationships between church and village community.

**Sat 18 December: Ps 71, Zephaniah 3.14-end**

Pray for Social services trying to protect the vulnerable, and facing misunderstanding and abuse.

**Sun 19 December: Ps 144 Isaiah 32.1-8**

Pray for the Carols by Candlelight services this evening at Hennock and PPT to lift hearts and minds in worship of the God made known in Jesus Christ.

# At the heart of Christmas



Christmas services at PPT Bovey & Hennock			
Mon 13 Dec	5/ 6.30pm	Bovey School Carols	PPT Bovey
Fri 17 Dec	4pm	Carols around the village	Hennock
Sat 18 Dec	4pm	Carols around the village	Teign Village
<b>Sun 19 Dec</b>			
	4.00pm	Carol Service	St Mary's Hennock
	6.00pm	Carols by Candlelight	PPT Bovey
<b>Fri 24 Dec</b>		<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
	3.00pm	Farmyard Crib Service	Warmhill Farm
	5.00pm	Carols at the Crib (outdoor if dry)	PPT Bovey
	11.00pm	Midnight Communion by Candlelight	PPT Bovey
<b>Sat 25 Dec</b>		<b>Christmas Day</b>	
	9.30am	Christmas Day Service (all-age)	PPT Bovey
	11.00am	Christmas Communion	St Mary's, Hennock
<b>Sun 26 Dec</b>			
	10.00am	Holy Communion	PPT Bovey

## **Open Doors - the Centre of Hope**

by Ann Power

“For peoples without hope, until you step in,  
“hope deferred makes the heart sick,  
but a long fulfilled is a tree of life (proverbs 13.12)

We are so blessed daily by our Father God and his dear son Jesus. When we have needed a friend, they have been there. They have indeed been there for billions of faithful Christian followers throughout the ages, and today are there for persecuted and rejected believers throughout the world.

OPEN DOORS brings that hope, friendship and encouragement to them as well as practical love, bringing food, medical help and support.

I receive, bi-monthly, a magazine and prayer diary full of heart-rending stories of commitment and courage, not asking us to for pray for them, but with them, our brothers and sisters in Christ, for our world. Their gratitude and knowledge that whatever befalls them, ‘God is always with me’ , is infectious and humbling.

What can we do to play our part in relieving distress for those who are homeless, sick, persecuted even to death among these brave and rejected Christians? Of course we must pray with them, but OPEN DOORS workers need practical help to supply their needs. Could you find it in your heart to make a donation this month, and put a gift in the plate by the door as you leave on Sunday?

If you would like to receive Open Doors magazines to read the stories of answered prayers, please let me know.

Ann Power (835810)

**Vicar:**

Rev. Graham Hamilton, 833813  
 St Peter's Vicarage, Coombe Cross, TQ13 9EP.  
 email: vicar@pptbovey.church.  
 Day off -Tuesday

Church Office: 834835  
 ansaphone checked regularly during the week

**Family Worker:**

Rosie Stephens 07876 662138  
 email: familyworker@pptbovey.church

**Churchwardens (PPT)**

Jill Hosford 832966  
 Mike Limb 832705

**(Hennock)**

Frances Swan 437895  
 Miles Pomfrett 331062

**Readers:**

Carolyn Laycock 832335

**Elected P.C.C.Members:**

Angie Blanche 07863 854013  
 Francis Gilbert QC -  
 Barry Newport 07753 309797  
 Jane Midgley 832751  
 Jack Knightly  
 Mark Alexander 07955 716329

**Deanery Synod Reps:**

Charlie Beauchamp 01647 27731  
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**Safeguarding Officer:**

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**Safeguarding Administrator:**

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**Captain of the Ringers**

Chris Dell 834994

**Choir Co-ordinator:**

Margaret Steele 832137

**Pastoral Care Co-ordinator:**

Jill Hosford 832966

**First Steps Toddler Group:**

Camilla Matheson 01364 661195

**Church Room Secretary:**

Jane Midgley, 832751

**Flower Rota:**

Sarah Gilbert 833934

PPT Bovey is a registered Charity: 1128849.

The PPT Bank account is  
 'P C C Bovey Tracey', acct no. 01219910,  
 sort code 30-96-06.

The Hennock bank account is:

*Please note that the Church office is no longer staffed, but ansaphones, emails and post will be checked regularly during the week. Contact the church wardens for details.*

*The Church Website contains details of all events, audio sermon files and documents for download: go to [www.pptbovey.church](http://www.pptbovey.church)*

*"PPT Bovey is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults.. If you are concerned that a child or adult has been harmed or may be at risk of harm please contact the Parish Safeguarding officer. If you have immediate concerns about the safety of someone, please contact the police or local authority Children or Adults Services."*



**Scan. Pay. Go.**



## Ways to pray for Christians in Nigeria this Christmas



For many of us, the approaching festive season is cause for excitement and celebration. But for Christians globally,

Christmas brings acute risk of attack. This is certainly the case in Nigeria, where believers are experiencing escalating and targeted violence at the hands of extremist groups and bandits. Nigeria is [number nine on the World Watch List](#) of countries where it's hardest to follow Jesus – but it has the highest violence. More Christians are killed for their faith in Nigeria than anywhere else in the world. Your prayers are desperately needed.

### 1. Protection of church activities over festive period

Following the deaths of several of its leaders, so-called Islamic State of West Africa (ISWAP) have sworn in replacements, and the new leaders are committed to attacking Christians in Nigeria and beyond. And they aren't the only persecutors. In northern Nigeria – which is majority Muslim – the church is experiencing a high level of threat, with Christmas and New Year festivities likely to be targeted. Only this week, the church in Zamfara State, northern Nigeria, received a letter from a group of bandits demanding that they close churches or risk 'ferocious' attacks.

*Heavenly Father, bring supernatural peace to fearful hearts in Nigeria as Christmas approaches. Thwart the plans of those intent on harming your people and protect all Christian gatherings over the festive period. Amen.*

### 2. Provision for families devastated by ransom demands

Christian families are carefully selected and targeted for abduction from schools, church services and while travelling, with perpetrators demanding overwhelming sums of money for their release. It's a calculated strategy that's led to the impoverishment of thousands of Christians, with families even forced to part with their homes to pay ransoms.

*Lord God, provide for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of families devastated by such calculated acts of evil, and heal their trauma. Intervene to bring about the release of Christians held captive. Amen.*

### 3. Fresh revelation of God's grace

Many Christian families are losing enthusiasm for the gospel, and struggling with feelings of anger and resentment towards those who persecute them. This reflects how increasingly unbearable life is for many Christians in Nigeria, and how much they need your prayers to stand strong in their faith.

*Lord Jesus, we can't imagine how challenging life is for our family in Nigeria. Give Your children a fresh revelation of Your love and grace, and use this to strengthen them to stand firm despite persecution. Amen.*

### 4. Stable economy and reunited families

The activities of extremists across northern Nigeria have led to rising food prices. Many families are living in hunger and uncertainty. Large numbers have fled to internal displacement camps (IDPs), with families even being separated from each other.

*Father, reunite families, provide for their needs, and enable Christians to return to their homes. Stabilise the economy through a reduction in food prices and opportunities to earn a living. Amen.*