

## READINGS FOR 19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

### A Reading from Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Letter to the Thessalonians

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. *1 Thessalonians 5: 1 - 11*

### GOSPEL

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." *Matthew 25: 14 - 30*

# Royston Parish Church of St. John the Baptist

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

## PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH IN THIS NEW TIME OF MINISTRY

Heavenly Father, as we give you thanks for all those who worked to enable us to return to worship and serve you in our restored Church building, we also give you thanks for all those who have helped the ministry in this community during our vacancy. We ask this in Jesus' name and for the sake of the advancement of your Kingdom. Amen

Sun 19 Nov	9 am	Said Eucharist
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Church Choir, Children's Church, followed by refreshments
	12.30 pm	Baptism of Sofia and Billy Field and Alex Beadle
Mon 20 Nov	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting in Church
Wed 22 Nov	11 am	Said Eucharist followed by refreshments
Thur 23 Nov	9 am – 11 am	Tots in Church
Fri 24 Nov	5 pm – 8 pm	Royston Town Christmas Tree light switch on. Church open to sell refreshments, and a fund raising stall
Sat 25 Nov	10 – 11.30 am	Church Café
	12 noon for 7.30 pm	Set up of staging for: Royston Choral Society Concert. Mass in B Minor – J S Bach.
Sun 26 Nov	9 am	BCP Holy Communion Service
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Church Choir, Children's Church, followed by refreshments
	6.30 pm	Taizé Service of Meditation

**MILADY CLARE'S MUSIKE** is a folk band that are playing in our church on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, doors open at 6:30pm for a 7pm start. Tickets are available from Ruth Savage and cost £10 in advance, or £12 on the door. Refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies will be available. All profits in aid of church funds.

For all Christians in Indonesia and the Philippines  
 For all who are worship at Barley, Barkway and Reed Churches: In Vacancy  
 For the work of our mission partners: Royston Homestart

**As we pray for our world, we pray for:**

Pray for UN World Toilet Day: for many living without access to safe sanitation

**We pray for the community of Royston:**

For our local health centres  
 For our local Civic Amenity Centre, and Sewage plant

**We pray for Jerusalem:**

Heavenly Father, we come before You with hearts burdened for the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem.  
 We lift up the leaders, the people, and all those who call Israel their home.  
 Grant them wisdom, discernment, and a heart for justice and righteousness.  
 Bring unity and reconciliation among different groups and help them to dwell in peace.

**We pray for the sick and suffering:**

Glen Thomas	Pat Frasi	Colin Fitch
Sarah Murphy	Neal	Baby Forest Pike
Baby Eden	Pat Tidey	Peter Coates
Richard Moss	Phoebe Strom	Jan McElney
Jamie Covington	Mike Wareham	Peter Nightingale
Jackson Herbert	Ann Milton	Ann Bassett

**We pray for those who have died in the faith of Christ:**

<b>Deceased</b>	<b>Bereaved</b>
<b>David Allard</b>	<b>Family and friends</b>

**We pray for those whose anniversaries fall at this time:**

19 Nov	George Gordon
22	Leslie Beger (pronounced BEEGER)

**NOTICES**

LINK TO SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> HYMN: This is the link to the hymn we are singing on Sunday which may not be familiar to many.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOI-YWWpEXk>

**DONATIONS OF MINCE PIES:** We have several items going on in the Church as we head towards Christmas. We would very much like to serve Mince Pies, and would welcome any you can donate for us. We would prefer shop bought please, with in used by date. Please leave in the kitchen. Thanking you in anticipation. **Joanne**  
**CHURCH FUND RAISING:** We will be having a stall selling church merchandise in church on the evening of Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 5pm - 8pm, and also during the day on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. We hope you will support this. Thanks in advance from the fundraising committee.

We also have copies of "Royston Priory, Foundation to Dissolution" by David Wallington. £7 per book at the back of Church, all proceeds to Church Funds. A limited number of copies (20) so get yours before they run out! (Please note: the book was published before the fire, so does not reflect all the changes that have come after the fire).

**WEEKLY ENVELOPES** – Looking ahead to next year, if you no longer requires a set of weekly envelopes or if anyone else would like a set, please could they contact me (tel: 245273) or have a word with a member of staff, preferably by the end of November. Many thanks. I will then have the new sets available as from 3 December. And PS for existing users: I've asked for the envelopes to be rather better perforated than this year's are – you'll know what I mean! Brenda S.

**CAROL SERVICE:** Sunday 17 December 5 pm. A traditional service of readings and carols for Christmas with the Royston Parish Church Choir. Followed by Mulled wine and mince pies. All welcome.

**A NEW VENTURE FOR US IN ROYSTON IS OUR "BLUE CHRISTMAS" SERVICE** on 22nd December at 6.30pm, almost the longest night of the year. In contrast to the celebration atmosphere of most Christmas events, this is a quiet, reflective service which provides an opportunity for the difficulties of life to be acknowledged, a service of comfort and light, for when pain seems the only gift under the tree. Some are far from home, some are lonely, struggling financially, or in conflict with another. Some hurt because of the great pain, need, and violence in our nation and world. The reasons for coming are many. We gather in the midst of that hurt to remember God is good. God is strong. God is near. We are not alone, and we have every reason to hold on to hope. Please speak to Reg if you would like to know more, or simply turn up.

**SENDING EVERYONE IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARDS?**

Rather than sending everyone in our church family a Christmas card, how about sending just one and saving the resources on our planet? We are going to have a board where you can pin a Christmas card for everyone at church. If you wish, we then suggest that you could send a donation to a charity or to church for some of the money that you saved in not sending multiple cards.

**DO YOU KNOW** anyone who might be vulnerable with the oncoming colder weather? If so, Steven has access to some Small acts of Kindness bags which contains a thermal hat, socks, scarf, blanket, porridge, soup and tea. If you know someone who you could give one of these bags to then, without sharing their details, please contact Steven so he can arrange to get a bag to you.