

The Benefice Highnam, Tibberton with Rudford and Taynton  
and the Parish of Minsterworth

## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Holy Communion	Highnam
11am	Holy Communion	Rudford
3.30-4.30pm	Christingle Walkthrough	Highnam
5pm	Ready for Christmas? Carol Service	Minsterworth

Bible Readings	Collect
Isaiah 11.1-10  Romans 15.4-13  Matthew 3.1-12	Almighty God, purify our hearts and minds, that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and saviour we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God.

### Church Diary – what's on and what to pray for...

Mon	8 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	9am	Morning Prayer on Zoom
Tues	9 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	9am	Collective Worship at Highnam School
		10.30am	Coffee and Communion at Rudford
Weds	10 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	10.15am	TLC Bereavement Group at Trioscape
		2.15pm	Advent Group with Chris Gardner at Anna and David Ball's house in Highnam
		7.30pm	Advent Group with Rev. Heather at Jo Stait's house in Minsterworth
Thurs	11 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	11am	Rev. Heather visiting reception classes at Highnam School to talk about Christmas
Sat	13 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	5pm	Donkey Walk at Minsterworth (meet at Highcross, or park at the church and catch the trailer to the start)

### Services Next Sunday – 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025- Third Sunday of Advent

11am	The 11 O' Clock	Minsterworth
11am	Holy Communion	Taynton
4pm	Rudford Carol Service	Rudford
5pm	Advent Taizé Service	Highnam

#### Isaiah 11.1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

### **Romans 15.4-13**

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name’;

and again he says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;

and again,

‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him’;

and again Isaiah says,

‘The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.’

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Matthew 3.1-12**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.”’

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’