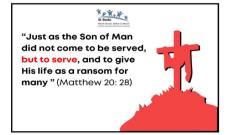


NEWSLETTER

14th December 2025





Editorial

3rd Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday

Reading: Matthew 11 v 1-11

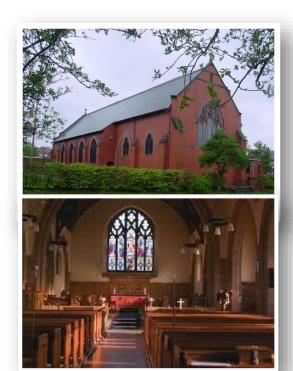
Matthew 11:1–11 highlights both the mission of Jesus and the unique role of John the Baptist. After sending out His disciples, Jesus continues teaching, showing that His ministry advances even as He empowers others. John, imprisoned and discouraged, sends messengers to ask if Jesus truly is the Messiah.

Jesus responds not with rebuke but with evidence—healing, restoration, and the proclamation of good news—fulfilling Isaiah's prophecies. He then affirms John's greatness, declaring him more than a prophet and the promised messenger who prepares the way. Yet Jesus emphasises that even the "least" in the kingdom is greater, revealing a new era of grace. This passage encourages faith during uncertainty and highlights the transformative nature of Christ's kingdom.

Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent in the Christian liturgical calendar. Its name comes from the Latin word "Gaudete," meaning "Rejoice," taken from the opening of the traditional entrance antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always." Unlike the more penitential tone of early Advent, Gaudete Sunday highlights joy and anticipation as Christmas draws near.

The rose-coloured candle on the Advent wreath is lit, symbolizing lightening hope and the nearness of Christ's coming. Many churches also use rose vestments to mark this shift in tone. Gaudete Sunday invites believers to pause, rejoice, and reflect on God's faithfulness, even as they continue preparing their hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth.

Tony Whitehead - Licensed Lay Minister (Reader)



Minti R Emma H David & Norma V Chloe Barbara S Rachael B Brenda & Ken John H & Debs Betty Sue S Lee A Vinny H Stuart & family Bishop David † Jackie Michael F Isaac Joanne Jodie Brian G Anne H David P Ross Ken K Belinda K

Phil & Sue B Re-Ordering Project Norma M WoW & Beyond WoW Freda Pause Café

Samantha W

Remember, this list is for those who need our prayers, not just the sick or bereaved.

Tania



This Week at St Bede

Sunday 14th December

10am Holy Communion

Journey with us through the Advent Season as we reflect on the ministry of John the Baptist and how he pointed people to Jesus.

Our children's ministry group 'Church Rocks' meets this week.

Wednesday 17th December

9.15am St Bede Academy Year 1 and 2 Christmas Service

11am St Bede Academy Year 3 and 4 Christmas Service

2pm St Bede Academy Year 5 and 6 Christmas Service

We are delight to welcome pupils and staff from St Bede Academy as they hold their Christmas Services here in church this week.

Saturday 20th December

9am Christingle Kit Making

Could you help and spare an hour? We need lots of volunteers to help assemble all the Christingle kits for our Christingle Carol Service. If you can help - just turn up at church and meet us here.

Sunday 21st December

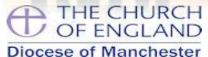
10am Christingle Carol Service

Join us as we begin our Christmas celebrations with our Christingle Carol Service. We are delighted to be joined by pupils and staff from St Bede Academy who will be taking part in our service and our Church Rocks group will be presenting a short nativity.









St Bede Charity Partner 2025.



ST BEDE CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2025

We are delighted to share details of our Christmas Services here at St Bede.

Our theme this year is Joy and we'll be reflecting on how we can discover the true joy of Christmas as we celebrate Christmas.

We have lots of invitation leaflets at the back of church. Please do take a few and use them to invite your family and friends.

We hope you are able to worship with us this Christmas at St Bede.







COLLECT

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.

Our Church depends very heavily on fundraising as well as regular giving to keep our Church afloat.

We ask that you do continue to give by setting up a Standing Order from your bank. Please contact our Treasurer, Simon Brooks for further details – brooks_simon@hotmail.co.uk

visit our website <u>www.st-bede.org.uk</u> or scan the QR code below



ALPHA COURSE 2026

If you want to know more about the joy of knowing Jesus; why not sign up to do our new Alpha Course.

Our new Alpha Course is being run at St Andrews Church starting on Wednesday 7th January at 7.30pm.

For more information please contact Vinny



No matter how you're ending the year, God is still able to flip the story.

He turns tables, seasons, and even hearts.

What looks final to you is just the beginning to Him.

@littlegraceph













Discover the Joy of Christmas at St Bede Church



Join us for our all-age service as we sing carols and make Christingles Staff and Pupils from St Bede Academy will also be taking part in our service.

Wednesday 24th December: Christmas Eve 6.30pm Pop Up Nativity Crib Service

This is your chance to star in a Nativity!

Please come dressed up as your
favourite Nativity Character.

Thursday 25th December: Christmas Day

10am Christmas Day Celebration with Communion

Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus









DECK THE HALLS... AND THE NEWSLETTER! 🎄



As St Bede tradition goes, we're swapping Christmas cards for something even better – your festive messages in our newsletter!

Instead of spending on cards, why not sprinkle that cheer as a donation? It's the season of giving, after all!

Simply fill in the form and get it to **Tony Whitehead** by **Wednesday 17th December** – so your message can shine bright in the newsletter on Sunday 21st December.

Let's make this Christmas less about envelopes and more about smiles! 🌞









St Bede's is a living Church, and its people are The Church. The Church's only financial support is its own Church family.

Please try to support our social and fundraising events as they are vital not only to the financial wellbeing of our Church but are great opportunities to get to know one another better.

Your Church thanks you for your gifts of money, time and talents.

Contacts

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Church Wardens – Jean Philips – 01204 451676 Gill Blackburn – 01204 660396

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Organist - David Platt

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St Bede Primary Academy Headteacher – Anna Black – 01204 61899

Chair of Governors – Tony Whitehead Vice Chair – David Almond

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