

Beaminster Area Team

God our Father, renew our hope. By the Holy Spirit's power, strengthen us to pray readily serve joyfully and grow abundantly rejoicing in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Week: 6th December, Second Sunday of Advent

Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm: 85

New Testament: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8

Reflection on the Gospel reading, *written by Rev. Fiona Beale*

John's father was a Jewish priest and his mother Elizabeth was related to Mary, the mother of Jesus. John was filled with the Spirit whilst yet in Elizabeth's womb. He was totally committed to God, never touching the dead or strong drink, never cutting his hair. He wore camels' hair and a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. All a sign that he was totally set apart for God's work.

To be quite fair, it seems John was in perfect control of his lifestyle. He knew exactly what he was doing, for he had assumed the clothing and style of the ancient prophet Elijah the Tishbite described in 2 Kings 1v8, who called his people to national repentance. John wore this clothing in protest, against the godlessness and self-serving materialism of his day. John was fearless in his proclamation of the message, just as his ancient prophetic clothing portrayed.

Nothing will make our words about the Kingdom of God, penetrate more into other people's lives than that which is true in our lives and comes from the heart in total sincerity. If we want to be more effective in speaking about God, to our friends and neighbours we must humbly ask God to make our lives demonstrations of the truth of our message. I am not saying wear camels' hair and eat wild locusts, but live out what you believe, like John the Baptist and all those prophets before him.

Collect for the Second Sunday of Advent

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

Worship to enjoy at home

BBC Radio 4, 8.10am Sunday Morning Worship,
Songs of Praise BBC1 1.15pm

A Useful Telephone Link from The Church of England. This is a free number where you can listen to prayers, reflections and hymns and join in worship with others.

