**The Benefice of Great Hanwood**

Longden & Annscroft with Pulverbatch

Sunday 1 December 2024
 First Sunday of Advent

Collect

Almighty God, as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin

to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

**Jeremiah 33: 14-16**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

**1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13**

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 10Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. 12And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. 13And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**Luke 21: 25-36**

 ‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. 28Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

29 Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. 33Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34 Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, 35like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

**Post Communion Prayer**

O Lord our God, make us watchful

and keep us faithful as we await the coming

of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

**We pray for the following:**

Hefyn Edwards, Margaret Hill, Rhoda Pearce, Sheila Dawson-Campbell, Jonathon Fraser, Maisie, Liam, Mark, Louise, Andrew.

**This week**

Thurs 5th 10am Holy Communion - Longden

Fri 6th  5.30-7.30pm Christmas Fayres in both Longden and Hanwood Schools

**Sunday 8 December – Advent 2**

9.30am Matins - Pulverbatch

11am Holy Communion - Longden

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7pm Meditation - Longden

**Diary Dates**

Sat 14th 8.30am Breakfast Club – Hanwood (NOTE DATE MOVE FROM 7TH TO 14TH)

Sun 15th 4pm Christingle and Gift Service Hanwood Church – bring a present for a needy child/adult

Thu 19th Walking Nativity on the Knapp, Pulverbatch, meet at The White Horse at 6pm

**We pray for our Benefice:**

For those living on Lyth Bank & Hill, Annscroft

Sun. Christ Church & the PCC

Mon Deanery Clergy and Readers

Tues. Rural Dean – Rev Greg Smith

Weds. Deanery Synod members

Thurs. Shops & Post Offices

Fri. Postal staff, bus drivers

Sat The vulnerable people in our society –

 pensioners, sick, disabled, unemployed