St John the Baptist Churches, Bishop's Tawton & Newport, Barnstaple

Sunday 29th November – 1st Sunday in Advent



'You win the heart, you win the wallet'; so says one of the big advertising agency CEO's. The Christmas ads are out, all vying for our attention. Online I see that there are about 36 using an emotional story line rather than trying to sell specific products. As of writing this I have managed to miss all of them! Are we immune to them, tho'? Apparently not; eg, John Lewis apparently made far more - £10 for every £1 invested – with this type of ad rather than the traditional product adverts!

'You win the heart, you win the wallet'. Which of course is a rather direct challenge to the words of Jesus in Matthew 6 about not storing up treasures for ourselves on earth, rather in heaven, for where our treasure is, there our heart is also. Last week, Rev Sarah who preached shared some uncomfortable statistics with us; like the top 10% wealthiest people in the world own 75% of global wealth while the bottom 50% just 2%, with the reminder that of course whilst none of us may be in that top 10%, we certainly aren't in that bottom 50% owning 2% either!

It begs the question though, where is our heart? Our hearts can get pulled in many directions – wealth being one of them. But not just that – obsession with following a sports team, or with so-called celebrities. If our hearts are 'there', we have fallen into idolatry, in effect 'worshipping' at the throne of whatever it is. Last week, Ally mentioned in the newsletter songs that draw us close to God, that are significant to us. One of my favourites is 'There is a higher Throne, than all this world has known', with the second verse; 'and there we'll find our home'. May we this season, and always, let our hearts be where that true treasure is!

Blessings, Andy (clergy with PTO)

Diary Dates

Fri 27th: Barnstaple Concert Band and Barnstaple Ladies Choir at Newport church 7:30pm
Mon 30th: Mini Music @ Newport 11am
Tue 1st: Baby and Toddlers group @ Bishops Tawton
Tue 1st: Advent Course @ BT, 7:15pm
Wed 2nd: Pop-up Café @ BT
Wed 2nd: Tea and Cake 10am-12noon @ Newport
Wed 2nd: Still Space 7:30 for 8pm @ Newport
Fri 4th - Sun 6th: Christmas Tree festival @ Newport
Sat 5th – Christmas coffee morning at Bishops Tawton
Morning Prayer: weekday mornings, 8am, Bishops Tawton
Evening Prayer: weekday evenings, 5pm, Newport

SUNDAY SERVICES
29th November

9:30am Morning Worship at Newport
11am Communion at Bishops Tawton
Isaiah 64:1-9
Mark 13:24-end

Online service of Morning Prayer:
https://youtu.be/yYVJ64j_Oqw

The 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.

Please pray for...
Sunday 29th: all the people we hope to welcome to our events and services this Christmas
Monday 30th: our outreach to children, families and young people
Tuesday 1st: World Aids Day
Wednesday 2nd: Rev'd Ally and her family
Thursday 3rd: the NHS, carers and key workers
Friday 4th: the Christmas Tree Festival at Newport this weekend
Saturday 5th: the Christmas Coffee Morning at Bishops Tawton today

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