

From the Chaplain...

This Sunday, we continue our Advent observance by focusing on John the Baptist, the great forerunner, who preached repentance in anticipation of the messiah's arrival (Luke 3. 7-18). I commend to you the following poem by the Scottish writer William Drummond (1585–1649), entitled 'Saint John the Baptist':

The last and greatest Herald of Heaven's King,
Girt with rough skins, hies to the deserts wild,
Among that savage brood the woods forth bring,
Which he than man more harmless found and mild.
His food was locusts, and what young doth spring
With honey that from virgin hives distill'd;
Parch'd body, hollow eyes, some uncouth thing
Made him appear, long since from earth exiled.
There burst he forth: 'All ye, whose hopes rely
On God, with me amidst these deserts mourn;
Repent, repent, and from old errors turn!
– Who listen'd to his voice, obey'd his cry?
Only the echoes, which he made relent,
Rung from their marble caves 'Repent! Repent!'

In addition to the 11.00am Choral Eucharist, this Sunday we will hold the first of our two Carol services at 6.00pm. Please note that all tickets for this service have now been distributed, and it is not possible to attend without a ticket. However, no pre-booking or reservation is needed to attend the same service on the following evening, 16 December, also at 6.00pm. I hope to see many of you at either of these services, which are a highlight of the Chapel year.

Yours faithfully,
Robert

chaplain@ornc.org

T: 020 8269 4796

M: 07814 704704