WALBURY BEACON
BENEFICE

Sunday 15th November 2026

Second Sunday before Advent

Readings

Zephaniah 1.7, 12-end

7 Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has
prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. 12 At that time I will search
Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on
their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do
harm.' 13 Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though
they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they
shall not drink wine from them. The Great Day of the Lord 14 The great day of the
Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the
warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and
anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of
clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the
fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 17 I will bring such distress upon
people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the
Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither
their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible
end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

1 Thessalonians 5.1-11

5Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not
need to have anything written to you. 2For you yourselves know very well that
the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3When they say, 'There is
peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour
pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4But you,
beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5for you are
all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of
darkness. 6So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and
be sober; 7for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk
at night. 8But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the
breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9For God
has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus
Christ, 10who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live

with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build up each other,
as indeed you are doing.

Matthew 25.14-30

The Parable of the Talents

14 ‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and
entrusted his property to them; [15]to one he gave five talents, to
another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he
went away. [16]The one who had received the five talents went off at
once and traded with them, and made five more talents. [17]In the same
way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. [18]But
the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the
ground and hid his master’s money. [19]After a long time the master of
those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20]Then the one who
had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents,
saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made
five more talents.” [21]His master said to him, “Well done, good and
trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put
you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” [22]And
the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you
handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.”
[23]His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you
have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many
things; enter into the joy of your master.” [24]Then the one who had
received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that
you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering
where you did not scatter seed; [25]so I was afraid, and I went and hid
your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” [26]But his
master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I
reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? [27]Then
you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my
return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take
the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29]For to
all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an
abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have
will be taken away. [30]As for this worthless slave, throw him into the
outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”